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REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,  
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

CONTENTS

Table with 2 columns: Item and Page. Includes items 1 through 6.1 with their respective page numbers.

• UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

6.2.	Addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity .....	16
6.3.	Marine spatial planning, marine protected areas and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas .....	16
ITEM 7.	BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE.....	18
7.1.	Advice on the application of relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to monitor or assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity .....	18
7.2.	Integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information.....	18
7.3.	Geoengineering: impacts on biodiversity and gaps in existing regulatory mechanisms.....	20
ITEM 8.	GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING DECISION X/17.....	21
ITEM 9.	GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE: REVISED DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY .....	22
ITEM 10.	NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES .....	23
ITEM 11.	BIOFUELS AND BIODIVERSITY: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING DECISION X/37.....	24
ITEM 12.	INCENTIVE MEASURES: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING DECISION X/44.....	25
ITEM 13.	REPORTS ON COLLABORATIVE WORK IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTS AND HEALTH.....	26
ITEM 14.	OTHER MATTERS.....	27
ITEM 15.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT .....	27
ITEM 16.	CLOSURE OF THE MEETING.....	27
Appendix 1.	STATEMENT BY THE UNFCCC SECRETARIAT .....	28
Annex	RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS SIXTEENTH MEETING .....	31

## **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. The sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was held at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, from 30 April to 5 May 2012.

## **ITEM 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

2. The meeting was opened at 10.10 a.m., on 30 April 2012, by Ms. Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Chair of the Subsidiary Body. Ms. Barudanović welcomed the participants and congratulated Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias on his appointment as the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She also expressed her gratitude to the former Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, for his commitment in working towards the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Chair said that she aimed to maximize the Subsidiary Body's contributions by further strengthening its science base in order to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and to emphasize the role of biodiversity in solving many of the challenges of sustainable development. It was therefore important to consider how the Subsidiary Body would interact with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). She also reminded the Subsidiary Body that it would, at the present meeting, undertake an in-depth review of the island biodiversity programme, which was the last thematic programme of work of the Convention, and the last for which an in-depth review was scheduled in the multi-year programme of work.

3. She said that the Subsidiary Body would also consider a package of issues on marine and coastal biodiversity. The Secretariat was organizing a series of regional workshops to describe areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). Drawing on the scientific information provided by those workshops, the Subsidiary Body was to prepare reports on the description of EBSAs for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting. In addition, the Subsidiary Body would address the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change, which was rapidly becoming a major threat to biodiversity. At the same time, adaptation to climate change, and climate-change mitigation, offered opportunities to achieve the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the current meeting would discuss the integration of biodiversity considerations into climate-change-related activities, as well as proposals on ways to fill the relevant information and knowledge gaps.

4. She thanked those Governments whose contributions had enabled the participation of experts in the various meetings held in the inter-sessional period, and in particular the European Union, Germany, Norway and Spain for sponsoring participants from developing countries at the present meeting. She also thanked the members of the Bureau, the Executive Secretary, as well as those Governments and organizations that had sponsored their representatives, and those experts who had voluntarily given their time to participate in and advance the work under the Convention.

5. Mr. Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, welcomed participants, stating that the deliberations at the meeting should focus on providing guidance on the scientific and technical issues that needed to be addressed in order to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to contribute effectively to national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. There was a need to promote more effective technical and scientific cooperation among Parties, as committed by Parties in Article 18. In that context, he warmly welcomed the initiative of the Chair to organize a round-table discussion on practical ways to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of the implementation of the Convention. There was also an urgent need for improved scientific evidence of the

consequences of biodiversity loss for the functioning of ecosystems, their ability to deliver goods and services, and for human livelihoods and well-being. A continuous monitoring system for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets needed to be put in place, which would require enhanced commitment and participation of all Parties and partners. It would require making observations relevant to biodiversity on a systematic basis and with the necessary frequency and resolution, managing the information so that it could be used for assessments and for deriving indicators, improving existing models and for making better projections. He welcomed the recent establishment of IPBES, which would assist the work under the Convention by carrying out assessments, generating knowledge, contributing to capacity-building and developing policy support tools and methodologies. Careful thought should be given to how the Subsidiary Body and IPBES could collaborate and interact in a practical and pragmatic way so that biodiversity came out as the winner. Finally, he said that there was a need for better integration of the Convention's work programmes and cross-cutting initiatives, while exploring synergies within the Convention process and with other conventions, particularly opportunities for mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors.

#### *A. Attendance*

6. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and other Governments:

Angola	Cuba	Jordan
Antigua and Barbuda	Cyprus	Kenya
Argentina	Czech Republic	Kiribati
Australia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kuwait
Austria	Denmark	Kyrgyzstan
Azerbaijan	Dominica	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Bangladesh	Dominican Republic	Lebanon
Belarus	Ecuador	Liberia
Belgium	Egypt	Lithuania
Benin	Estonia	Madagascar
Bhutan	Ethiopia	Malaysia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	European Union	Mali
Botswana	Finland	Marshall Islands
Brazil	France	Mauritania
Bulgaria	Georgia	Mexico
Burkina Faso	Germany	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Burundi	Ghana	Morocco
Cambodia	Grenada	Mozambique
Cameroon	Guatemala	Myanmar
Canada	Guinea	Nauru
Central African Republic	Haiti	Nepal
Chad	Iceland	Netherlands
Chile	India	New Zealand
China	Iraq	Niger
Colombia	Ireland	Nigeria
Comoros	Jamaica	Norway
Cook Islands	Japan	
Croatia		

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Oman	Singapore	Turkey
Pakistan	Solomon Islands	Turkmenistan
Palau	Somalia	Uganda
Peru	South Africa	Ukraine
Philippines	Spain	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Republic of Korea	Sri Lanka	United Republic of Tanzania
Republic of Moldova	Sudan	United States of America
Russian Federation	Suriname	Uruguay
Rwanda	Sweden	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Switzerland	Viet Nam
Saint Lucia	Tajikistan	Yemen
Samoa	Thailand	Zambia
Saudi Arabia	Timor-Leste	Zimbabwe
Senegal	Togo	
Serbia	Trinidad and Tobago	
Seychelles	Tunisia	

7. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended:

Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)	OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network and Forum (UNEP-CAR/RCU),	Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	World Bank
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	United Nations Environment Programme
Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Forest Europe)	United Nations Development Programme
	United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
	United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies.

8. The following were also represented by observers:

African Indigenous Women Organization (Nairobi)	Biosphere
Agence française des Aires Marines Protégées	BirdLife International
Andes Chinchasyo	Botanic Gardens Conservation International
Animal Welfare Institute	CAB International
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity	Canadian Biotechnology Action Network
Association québécoise pour la promotion de l'éducation relative à l'environnement	CBD Alliance
	Centre for International Sustainable Development Law
	Collège International Marie de France

College of the Atlantic	Les amis de la montagne
Concordia University (Canada)	Marine Conservation Biology Institute
Congruence LLC	McGill University
Conservation International	Metis National Council
Council of Europe	Missouri Botanical Garden
DIVERSITAS	Natural History Museum
EcoNexus	NatureServe
ECOROPA	Observatoire de l'Écopolitique Internationale
ETC Group	Ocean Bio-geographic Information System (OBIS SEAMAP)
Federation of German Scientists	RARE Conservation
Forest Peoples Programme	Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh
Friends of the Earth - U.S.	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
Fur Institute of Canada	SNC-Lavalin Environment
Glacialis Production	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme
Global Biodiversity Information Facility	Tebtebba Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research & Education
Global Forest Coalition	The Nature Conservancy
Global Island Partnership,	The Nature Conservation Society of Japan
Greenpeace International	Royal Botanic Gardens
Grupo de Ecologia y Conservacion de Islas	Kew
Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund	The Royal Society
Institute for Biodiversity Network	TRAFFIC International
Instituto de Estudos do Comercio e Negociacoes Internacionais	Universidad dos Açores
International Association of Oil and Gas Producers	Université de Montréal (Canada)
International Center for Technology Assessment	Université de Sherbrooke
International Collective in Support of Fish Workers	Université du Québec à Montréal -UQAM
International Union of Forest Research Organizations	University of East Anglia
Island Conservation	University of Reading
IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature	University of Rome Sapienza
Japan Civil Network for the UN Decade on Biodiversity	USC - Canada
Japan Environmental Lawyers' Federation (JELF)	Wildlife Conservation Society
Japan Wildlife Research Center	World Federation for Culture Collections
John Abbott College	World Ocean Council
	World Society for the Protection of Animals
	WWF International

### ***B. Election of officers***

9. In accordance with the elections held at the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Subsidiary Body, the Bureau of the sixteenth meeting of SBSTTA comprised the following members:

*Chair:* Ms. Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

*Vice-Chairs:* Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation)

Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria)

Mr. Ole Hendrickson (Canada)

Mr. Ignatius Makumba (Zambia)

Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinea)

Ms. Larissa Maria Lima Costa (Brazil)

Mr. Floyd Homer (Trinidad and Tobago)

Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati)

Mr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia)

10. It was agreed that Mr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia) would act as Rapporteur for the meeting.

11. At the 3rd plenary session of the meeting, on 5 May 2012, the Subsidiary Body elected the following five new members to serve for a term commencing at the end of its sixteenth meeting and ending at the end of its eighteenth meeting, to replace the members from Austria, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Zambia:

Mr. Jean-Patrick LeDuc (France)

Ms. Brigitte Baptiste (Colombia)

Ms. Ivna Vukšić (Croatia)

Mr. Yousef Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia)

Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussie (Ethiopia)

12. In accordance with the election held at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Ms. Senka Barudanović would remain in office as SBSTTA chair until the end of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### ***C. Adoption of the agenda***

13. At the 1st plenary session of the meeting, on 30 April 2012, the Subsidiary Body adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/1/Rev.1), as orally amended:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - 2.1 Election of officers;
  - 2.2 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of SBSTTA in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and issues, modalities and options for collaboration with IPBES.
4. Global Biodiversity Outlook: preparation of the fourth edition.
5. Island biodiversity: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work.
6. Marine and coastal biodiversity:
  - 6.1 Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
  - 6.2 Addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity;
  - 6.3 Marine spatial planning, marine protected areas and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas.
7. Biodiversity and climate change:
  - 7.1 Advice on the application of relevant REDD+\*\* safeguards for biodiversity, and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to monitor or assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity;
  - 7.2 Integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information;
  - 7.3 Geoengineering: impacts on biodiversity and gaps in regulatory mechanisms.
8. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: progress in implementing decision X/17.
9. Global Taxonomy Initiative: revised draft comprehensive capacity-building strategy.
10. New and emerging issues.
11. Biofuels and biodiversity: progress in implementing decision X/37.
12. Incentive measures: progress in implementing decision X/44.
13. Reports on collaborative work in the areas of agriculture, forests and health.
14. Other matters.
15. Adoption of the report.
16. Closure of the meeting.

14. The delegation of Ethiopia queried the absence from the agenda of ecosystem restoration and other issues still pending from the fifteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body. The Secretariat responded that those matters would be addressed at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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\*\* With reference to relevant decisions and documents of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the term REDD+ refers to “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”.

#### ***D. Organization of work***

15. In considering the organization of work, the Subsidiary Body had before it the proposed allocation of tasks contained in annex I to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/1/Add.1/Rev.1.

16. The Subsidiary Body decided to set up two open-ended sessional working groups for its sixteenth meeting as provided in annex I to the revised annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/Add.1/Rev.1).

#### ***E. Work of the sessional working groups***

17. As decided by the Subsidiary Body at its 1st plenary session, Working Group I met under the chairmanship of Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinea) and Mr. Ole Hendrickson (Canada) to consider agenda items 4 (Global Biodiversity Outlook: preparation of the fourth edition), 7.1 (Advice on the application of relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity, and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to monitor or assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity), 7.2 (Integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information), 7.3 (Geoengineering: impacts on biodiversity and gaps in regulatory mechanisms), 11 (Biofuels and biodiversity: progress in implementing decision X/37), 12 (Incentive measures: progress in implementing decision X/44) and 13 (Reports on collaborative work in the areas of agriculture, forests and health). The Working Group held 10 meetings, from 30 April to 4 May 2012. It adopted its report at its 10th meeting, on 4 May 2012.

18. As decided by the Subsidiary Body at its 1st plenary session, Working Group II met under the chairmanship of Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria) and Ms. Larissa Maria Lima Costa (Brazil) to consider items 5 (Island biodiversity: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work), 6.1 (Ecologically or biologically significant marines areas), 6.2 (Addressing the impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity), 6.3 (Marine spatial planning, marine protected areas and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental assessments in marine an coastal areas), 8 (Global strategy for Plant Conservation: progress in implementing decision X/17), 9 (Global Taxonomy Initiative: revised draft comprehensive capacity-building strategy), and 10 (New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity). The Working Group held eight meetings, from 30 April to 4 May 2012. It adopted its report at its 8th meeting, on 4 May 2012.

19. At its 2nd plenary session, on 3 May 2012, and 4th plenary session, on 5 May 2012, the Subsidiary Body heard progress reports from the Co-Chairs of the working groups.

### **ITEM 3. WAYS AND MEANS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SBSTTA IN LIGHT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND ISSUES, MODALITIES AND OPTIONS FOR COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)**

20. Agenda item 3 was taken up by the Subsidiary Body at its 1st plenary session on 30 April 2012. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of SBSTTA in light of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and issues, modalities and options for collaboration (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2), as orally amended by the representative of the Secretariat. It also had before it, as an information document, a summary of the outcome of the second session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/40).

21. Mr. Neville Ash, Chief of the Biodiversity Unit at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), outlined the relevant outcomes of the second session of the plenary meeting to determine the modalities and institutional arrangements for IPBES, which had taken place in Panama City, Panama, from 16 to 21 April 2012.
22. In his presentation, Mr. Ash said that IPBES would be composed of three structures: a plenary decision-making body, open to membership from States members of the United Nations, a Bureau, comprising the Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one from each of the United Nations regions, as well as five additional officers, and a Multidisciplinary Expert Panel that would carry out the scientific and technical functions of IPBES. He said that the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel would initially be composed of five members, one from each of the five United Nations regions, but that it had been suggested to move in the future to a structure that reflects biogeographic regions. The chairs of the scientific subsidiary bodies of the biodiversity and ecosystem services-related multilateral environmental agreements would be invited to attend its meetings as observers.
23. It had also been agreed that the seat of the Secretariat would be located in Bonn, Germany, with UNEP acting as the interim Secretariat. He explained that while the functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements had been elaborated, some details still had to be finalized, and that in view of the work to be undertaken, the first plenary meeting of IPBES was likely to take place early in 2013. That would allow those involved to consider the inputs from the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, and the conferences of the parties, of the biodiversity and ecosystem services-related multilateral environmental agreements.
24. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, the European Union, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Japan, Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Niger, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yemen.
25. Statements were also made by representatives of the Metis National Council, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the ETC Group.
26. Following the discussion, the Chair asked Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico) and Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway) to facilitate an informal group to consider the suggested amendments to the draft recommendation.
27. At its 2nd plenary session, on 3 May 2012, Mr. Benítez Díaz reported to the Subsidiary Body on the progress of the informal group. Following the progress report, the Subsidiary Body resumed its discussion of agenda item 3 in light of a draft recommendation he presented.
28. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, the European Union, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.
29. A statement was also made by a representative of UNEP as the interim secretariat of IPBES.
30. In response to a question, the legal advisor to the Secretariat said that according to paragraph 4 (i) of Article 23 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties could undertake any additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention, and therefore could determine how the Convention interacts with other bodies such as IPBES. In addition, according to paragraph 3 of Article 25, it was within the powers of the Conference of the Parties to further elaborate the functions and terms of reference of the Subsidiary Body. Consequently the Conference of the Parties could establish the modalities for the interaction between the Subsidiary Body and IPBES.

31. Following the exchange of views, the draft recommendation, as orally amended, was approved for formal adoption by the Subsidiary Body as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.6.

*Action by the Subsidiary Body*

32. At its 3rd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.6 as recommendation XVI/1. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

**ITEM 4. GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK: PREPARATION OF THE FOURTH EDITION**

33. Working Group I took up agenda item 4 at its 1st meeting, on 30 April 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinea). In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the plan for the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/3), together with the evaluation of the process for the preparation and production of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/1) and the draft communication strategy for the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/2).

34. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to paragraph 17 (d) of decision X/2 of the Conference of the Parties, which requested the Executive Secretariat to prepare a plan, to be considered by the Subsidiary Body prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook on the basis of the fifth national reports, using headline global biodiversity indicators and other relevant information. The plan prepared accordingly was contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/3, which also included a summary of the main points arising from the review of the process of preparation and production of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

35. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Sudan, Thailand and Uganda.

36. A statement was also made by a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

37. Further statements were made by representatives of DIVERSITAS and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

38. The representative of Switzerland said that his country would provide financial support for the drafting of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, while the representative of Japan said that his country would translate the publication into Japanese.

39. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that he would prepare a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/3), reflecting the views expressed by participants and written submissions to the Secretariat, for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

40. The Working Group discussed the revised version of the draft recommendation at its 4th and 5th meetings, on 2 May 2012.

41. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Mexico, Niger,

Norway, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

42. The representative of the European Union requested that the following statement be included in the report of the meeting:

“Parties and other Governments should make timely financial contributions for the development of biodiversity indicators that build on and continue the work of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in order to deliver global biodiversity indicators for the post-2010 period and support Parties in developing corresponding national indicators, in the framework of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (Aichi Targets 1-20). The European Union therefore supports the proposal made by UNEP in support of Parties’ implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (paragraph 14 (h) of document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/7 on the financial mechanism: review of GEF-5 and needs for GEF-6).

“In 2011, the European Union provided financial support to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and this year is providing financial support to UNEP for continuing the work of the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership.”

43. A statement was also made by a representative of IIFB.

44. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.3.

#### ***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

45. At its 2nd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.3, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/2. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

### **ITEM 5. ISLAND BIODIVERSITY: IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK**

46. Working Group II took up agenda item 5 at its 1st meeting, on 30 April 2012, under the chairmanship of Ms. Larissa Maria Lima Costa (Brazil). In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/4) and information documents on a compilation and synthesis of information submitted by Parties, other governments and organizations for the in-depth review on island biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/3) and on the integration of climate-change impacts and response activities within the programme of work on island biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/4).

47. At the invitation of the Co-Chair, the Honourable Ronald Jumeau, Seychelles Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues, made a presentation. He said that precious and unique island biodiversity was disappearing at an alarming rate, with the extinction rates on islands being 187 times higher for birds, and 177 times higher for mammals, than on continents. That rate of loss was increasingly affecting options for sustainable development, including poverty eradication, and was whittling away at resilience to climate change. However, while island countries were asking for more and stronger cooperation and support, they were also, despite their limited resources, leading by example.

48. He informed the Working Group that the Seychelles had deposited its ratification of the Nagoya Protocol at the United Nations Depository in New York, making the Seychelles the first island state, and

only the fourth country in the world, to do so. The Seychelles had also opted to borrow at international market rates to build several new islands for development rather than encroach on its national parks and nature reserves. Another example was Palau, a country of some 20,000 people, which had in 2011 allocated US\$ 1.4 million from the “Green Fee” (an added departure tax) to the Palau Protected Area Network as part of its commitment to the Micronesia Challenge.

49. Island biodiversity was important to all countries with islands, irrespective of their level of development, and he welcomed the European Union’s Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the Territories of the European Union Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories (BEST) as a promising signal of both greater recognition of, and investment in, protecting the biodiversity of its island territories. He said that the forthcoming eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties was arguably the last opportunity to address the specific issue of island biodiversity, and he urged the meeting to do justice to those far-flung but unique champions of biodiversity and help them in the judicious use of their natural environments for the benefit of their populations and biodiversity, and as the common natural heritage of humanity.

50. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, India, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, the Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Saint Lucia, South Africa, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Yemen.

51. A statement was also made by a representative of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

52. Statements were also made by representatives of Island Conservation and RARE Conservation.

53. On the proposal of the Co-Chair, the Working Group established a contact group, to be co-chaired by Ms. Nenenteiti Teariki-Ruatu (Kiribati) and Mr. Floyd Homer (Trinidad and Tobago) to consider the suggested amendments to the draft recommendations.

54. The Working Group discussed a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/4) at its 4th meeting, on 2 May 2012.

55. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, China, the European Union, India, the Philippines and South Africa.

56. The Working Group agreed to forward the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.2.

#### ***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

57. At its 2nd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.2 as recommendation XVI/3. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

58. A statement was made by a representative of the Cook Islands, speaking also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, the Seychelles and Trinidad and Tobago. The countries concerned, acknowledging the progress and process involved in reaching consensus, fully endorsed the recommendation adopted and noted the opportunities for island States and States with islands to renew their commitment to the programme of work on island biodiversity through the ongoing preparation of action plans for protected areas and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) consistent with the Strategic Plan for

Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. They urged Parties to mainstream updated NBSAPs and action plans for protected areas into national planning and work programmes to ensure a broad-based undertaking of national obligations under the Convention, including the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Finally, they looked forward to the proposed initiative of island States in the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to recognize leadership by island States and States with islands in taking early action on the programme of work on island biodiversity and their contribution to the Aichi Targets.

## **ITEM 6. MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY**

### ***Item 6.1 Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas***

59. Working Group II took up agenda item 6.1 at its 1st meeting, on 30 April 2012, under the chairmanship of Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria). In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note on marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (ESBAs) (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/5) and the draft summary report on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/5/Add.1, and Corr.1). It also had before it the report of the joint OSPAR/NEAFC EBSA regional workshop in the North-East Atlantic (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5), a review of the report of the joint OSPAR/NEAFC EBSA regional workshop (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5/Add.1), the report of the Western South Pacific EBSA regional workshop (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6), the report of the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic EBSA regional workshop (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7), the synthesis report on the work carried out regarding identification of ESBAs in the Mediterranean (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8), the EBSA training manual and modules, including the user manual for the use of the EBSA repository and information-sharing mechanism (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/9) and a note identifying specific elements for integrating the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, and social and cultural criteria for identification of ESBAs as well as the establishment and management of marine protected areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/10).

60. At the invitation of the Co-Chair, Mr. Nic Bax of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Ms. Ana Paula Prates of the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment, Mr. David Johnson, Executive Secretary of the OSPAR Commission (Administrator of the Oslo and Paris Conventions for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic) and Célia le Ravallec of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan, took the floor in turn to present the results of four regional EBSA workshops. The workshops had covered the Western South Pacific, the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic, the North-East Atlantic and the Mediterranean regions, respectively. Mr. Bax opened the presentation with an introduction to ESBAs and their importance and drew it to a close with a number of pertinent conclusions, more fully described in documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5 – INF/8.

61. Statements were made by representatives of Denmark, Iceland, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Mexico.

62. Working Group II resumed its consideration of agenda item 6.1 at its 2nd meeting, on 1 May 2012.

63. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, the European Union, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Liberia, Madagascar, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

64. Statements were also made by representatives of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (UN/DOALOS) and FAO.

65. Further statements were made by representatives of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), IIFB, IUCN, the World Ocean Council, and WWF International.

66. Following the statements, the Co-Chair established an open-ended contact group to be co-chaired by Mr. Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation) and Mr. Paulino Franco de Carvalho Neto (Brazil) to consider the suggested amendments and prepare a revised draft recommendation for the consideration of the Working Group.

67. At its 6th meeting, on 4 May 2012, the Working Group considered a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/5), prepared by the co-chairs of the open-ended contact group. The addendum to the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/5/Add.1 and Corr.1), with amendments made as proposed by the contact group, was annexed to the draft recommendation.

68. Statements were made by representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Spain.

69. At its 7th meeting, on 4 May 2012, the Working Group further considered the revised version of the draft recommendation, as well as an informal paper containing two additional paragraphs that had been proposed by delegates for inclusion in the draft recommendation.

70. The representative of South Africa reminded the Working Group that some regions had not yet had the opportunity to hold a workshop to help set out the details of areas that met the criteria for EBSAs, and that it would not be possible to consider the reports of those workshops at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties if they first had to be considered at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body. She expressed her disappointment that the particular concerns of those regions might be overlooked when deciding on the criteria for the definition of EBSAs.

71. The representative of Ghana also said that the African Group was concerned that its views had not been sought in a workshop for the development of criteria for EBSAs. He said that the African Group would prefer a comprehensive discussion of the EBSA criteria once all workshops had been completed, which would be a more objective way of considering those criteria.

72. The Working Group agreed to forward the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.13.

#### ***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

73. At its 3rd plenary session, on 5 May 2012, the Subsidiary Body took up the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.13.

74. The representative of Liberia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, reiterated the concerns previously expressed by the representative of Ghana and requested that the entire report be placed in square brackets.

75. The Executive Secretary explained that the criteria followed in identifying EBSAs had been discussed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting on the basis of the proposals of a regionally balanced group of experts. As part of the ongoing process of consultations on EBSAs, further regional workshops were planned. Preparations for an Indian Ocean workshop were already in

place, and it was hoped that a workshop for the East Atlantic would follow; both would involve delegates nominated by African countries. He gave assurance of the Secretariat's commitment to continue organizing workshops in the series.

76. At its 4th plenary session, on 5 May 2012, the Subsidiary Body continued its consideration of the draft recommendation.

77. The representative of Liberia, speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that, after much consultation, the African Group would agree to withdraw its request to place the entire report in square brackets on condition that workshops be continued for those regions in which they had not yet been held, including Africa, and that a new paragraph be included in section B of the draft recommendation requesting the Executive Secretary to develop a full schedule of workshops and make it available as soon as possible, and at the latest by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

78. The draft recommendation was adjusted accordingly.

79. The representative of South Africa highlighted the many technical and technological constraints to which developing countries, particularly in Africa, were subject, which could hinder the execution of certain activities under the Convention by the Secretariat. Capacity-building, as well as links between the Subsidiary Body and IPBES, might help to remove those constraints. She reaffirmed the region's commitment to implementation of the Convention.

80. The representative of Brazil said that the deletion of the paragraph concerning the Southern Brazilian Sea in table 2 of the annex to recommendation XVI/4 should be considered provisional pending reconsideration for reinsertion in that table at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

81. At its 4th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.13, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/4. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

***Item 6.2. Addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity***

***Item 6.3. Marine spatial planning, marine protected areas and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas***

82. Agenda items 6.2 and 6.3 were taken up together by the Working Group at its 2nd meeting, on 1 May 2012 under the chairmanship of Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria). In considering item 6.2, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6). It also had before it the report on the progress made in the implementation of the specific work plan on coral bleaching (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/11), a scientific synthesis on the impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/12), the report of the joint expert meeting on addressing biodiversity concerns in sustainable fisheries (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/13), the report of the expert meeting to develop a series of joint expert review processes to monitor and assess the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/14) and the synthesis document on the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/15).

83. The Working Group also had before it, when considering item 6.3, a note by the Executive Secretary on marine spatial planning and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas

(UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7) and the draft voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7/Add.1) as well as information documents containing background on the development of voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) in marine and coastal areas (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/16), proposals for the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/17) and a synthesis of the experience and use of marine spatial planning (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18).

84. Statements were made by representatives of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

85. Working Group II resumed its consideration of agenda items 6.2 and 6.3 at its 3rd meeting, on 1 May 2012.

86. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, the European Union, Jordan, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Peru, and also the United States of America.

87. Statements were also made by representatives of FAO, UN/DOALOS and UNEP.

88. Further statements were made by representatives of the Federation of German Scientists, Greenpeace, ICSF, IIFB and IUCN.

89. Following the discussion the Co-Chair said that she would prepare revised versions of the draft recommendations contained in documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7 for consideration by the Working Group at a subsequent meeting.

90. At its 7th meeting, on 4 May 2012, the Working Group further considered agenda item 6.2 and discussed a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6).

91. Statements were made by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Senegal, South Africa, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

92. A statement was also made by a representative of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS).

93. At its 8th meeting, on 4 May 2012, the Working Group continued its discussion of the revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6.

94. Further statements were made by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Peru, Spain, South Africa and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

95. The representative of Argentina said that it was important to consider economies of scale and the need to have a sufficient number of examples before requesting the Executive Secretary to compile and synthesize scientific information for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body. Failure to do so meant that the information being considered by the Subsidiary Body might not be sufficiently representative.

96. The Working Group agreed to forward the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.16.

97. At its 8th meeting, on 4 May 2012, the Working Group further considered agenda item 6.3 and discussed a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7.

98. Statements were made by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Japan, Mexico and the Russian Federation.

99. The representative of Australia, supported by Argentina and the Dominican Republic, said that the voluntary guidelines contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7/Add.1 needed further refinement before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

100. The Working Group agreed to forward the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.15.

### ***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

101. At its 4th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.16, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/5, and draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.15, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/6. The text of both recommendations as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

## **ITEM 7. BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

***Item 7.1. Advice on the application of relevant REDD+\*\* safeguards for biodiversity and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to monitor or assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity***

***Item 7.2. Integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information***

102. Working Group I took up agenda items 7.1 and 7.2 together at its 2nd meeting, on 1 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinea). In considering item 7.1, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on advice on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity with regard to REDD+, and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to monitor or assess impacts on biodiversity of REDD+ measures (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8), submissions from Parties on REDD+ safeguards and assessment of impacts on biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/19), a submission by the CBD Secretariat to the UNFCCC Secretariat on methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD+, specifically related to systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/20), an analysis of possible indicators to measure impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity and on indigenous and local communities (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/21), a framework for integrating biodiversity concerns into national REDD+ programmes (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/22), Assessing REDD+ performance of countries with low monitoring capacities: the matrix approach (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/23), a review of three REDD+ safeguard initiatives (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/24) and a background report on improving forest biodiversity monitoring and reporting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/25).

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\*\* With reference to relevant decisions and documents of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the term REDD+ refers to “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”.

103. In considering item 7.2, the Working Group had before it proposals on the integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/9), Biodiversity and Climate Change: examples of bioclimatic models (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/26), and the summary report on the Rio Conventions Pavilion (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/27).

104. With regard to item 7.1, the representative of the Secretariat expressed appreciation to those countries that had hosted or provided financial support for the four expert workshops on the findings of which the report contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8 was in part based. He also delivered a statement on behalf of the UNFCCC Secretariat, which is appended to this report.

105. Statements were made by representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland and Thailand.

106. Working Group I resumed its consideration of agenda items 7.1 and 7.2 at its 2nd meeting, on 1 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Bah.

107. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the European Union, Ghana, India, Malaysia, Niger, Norway, South Africa and Uganda.

108. Statements were also made by representatives of FAO and the World Bank.

109. Further statements were made by representatives of DIVERSITAS, the Global Forest Coalition, IIFB and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

110. At the suggestion of the Co-Chair, it was decided to establish an open-ended group of the Friends of the Chair to continue deliberations on agenda item 7.1, in which the representatives of Australia, Brazil, China, Denmark, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa and Uganda were particularly invited to participate, with the aim of reaching consensus. Mr. Ignatius Makumba (Zambia) and Mr. Alan Reid (New Zealand) would act as facilitators for the group's discussions.

111. The Co-Chair said that revised versions of the draft recommendations contained in documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/9 would be prepared, to be considered individually.

112. Under agenda item 7.1, the Working Group heard a progress report from Mr. Makumba and discussed a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8 at its 9th meeting, on 4 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ole Hendrickson (Canada).

113. Statements were made by representatives of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the European Union, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

114. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.12.

115. Under agenda item 7.2, the Working Group discussed a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/9 at its 5th meeting, on 2 May 2012, and its 6th meeting, on 3 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Hendrickson.

116. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, the European Union, Finland, Guatemala, India, Japan,

Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia.

117. Statements were also made by representatives of DIVERSITAS and IIFB.

118. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.5.

#### ***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

119. At its 3rd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.12, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/7, and draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.5, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/8. The text of both recommendations as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

#### ***Item 7.3. Geoengineering: impacts on biodiversity and gaps in existing regulatory mechanisms***

120. Working Group I took up agenda item 7.3 at its 2nd meeting, on 1 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ole Hendrickson (Canada). In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on technical and regulatory matters on geoengineering in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/10), information documents on impacts of climate related geoengineering on biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/28), on the regulatory framework for climate-related geoengineering relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/29) and on impacts of climate-related geoengineering on biodiversity: views and experiences of indigenous and local communities and stakeholders (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/30).

121. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat explained that the studies reported in information documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/28 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/29 had been carried out pursuant to decision X/33, paragraphs 9 (l) and 9 (m) respectively. She said that, to facilitate the preparation of the geoengineering documents before the Subsidiary Body, the Executive Secretary had established an expert group and a legal liaison group, thanks to the generous contributions of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Norway. The Secretariat had arranged for two rounds of peer review for each of the two studies. She further explained that document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/30 had been prepared on the basis of an online consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities, hosted by UNESCO. The proposals prepared by the Executive Secretary were contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/10.

122. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, India, Norway, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

123. Statements were also made by representatives of EcoNexus (speaking also on behalf of Biofuelwatch and the Global Forest Coalition), the ETC Group and Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education).

124. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that he would prepare a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/10, reflecting the views expressed by participants and written submissions to the Secretariat, for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

125. The Working Group discussed the revised version of the draft recommendation at its 8th and 9th meetings, on 4 May 2012.

126. Statements were made by representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the European Union, Finland, France, Guatemala, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Niger, Norway, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Sudan, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and also the United States of America.

127. Statements were also made by representatives of the ETC Group and the Royal Society.

128. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.11.

#### ***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

129. At its 3rd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.11, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/9. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

130. With reference to paragraph 10 of the draft decision, the representative of the United States of America delivered the following statement:

“The United States objects to this paragraph, which does not accurately reflect customary international law. We have a number of disagreements with the characterization and interpretation of various legal instruments and concepts in this report, including the report’s consideration of a number of concepts as purportedly reflecting customary international law. As for the precautionary approach, which is not customary international law, we do not consider it an appropriate or particularly helpful tool in the context of geoengineering.”

#### **ITEM 8. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PLANT CONSERVATION: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING DECISION X/17**

131. Agenda item 8 was taken up by Working Group II at its 3rd meeting on 1 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Ms. Lima Costa. In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: progress in implementing decision X/17 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/11) and an information document on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: World Flora Online by 2020 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/38).

132. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, France, Guatemala, India, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

133. A statement was also made by a representative of FAO.

134. Further statements were made by representatives of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, IUCN and TRAFFIC International (speaking also on behalf of WWF International).

135. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that she would prepare a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/11, reflecting the views expressed by participants and written submissions to the Secretariat, for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

136. The Working Group discussed the revised version of the draft recommendation at its 5th meeting, on 3 May 2012.

137. Statements were made by representatives of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and also the United States of America.

138. The representative of the United States of America asked the proponents of the phrase “and those countries that are centres of origin of biodiversity” to reconsider that wording, as the phrase was vague. He said that all countries were centres of origin of biodiversity and he offered to work with the proponents of the text to refine that language before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to ensure that it reflected the real intent of the proponents. The representative of Peru said that the term “centres of origin of biodiversity” should read “centres of origin of genetic diversity”, in line with the Convention.

139. The Working Group agreed to forward the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.7.

#### *Action by the Subsidiary Body*

140. At its 3rd plenary session, on 5 May 2012, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.7, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/10. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

### **ITEM 9. GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE: REVISED DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY**

141. Agenda item 9 was taken up by Working Group II at its 3rd meeting, on 1 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Ms. Larissa Maria Lima Costa (Brazil). In considering the item, the Working Group had before it the revised draft capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/12) and, as information documents, a progress report on capacity-building activities for the Global Taxonomy Initiative and invasive alien species (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/31) and a note on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing and the Global Taxonomy Initiative (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/37).

142. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat reminded the Working Group that, at its 15th meeting, the Subsidiary Body had agreed on a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on the draft capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative and had also requested the Executive Secretary to revise the draft capacity-building strategy. The draft strategy had been reviewed once again by Parties, observers, and indigenous and local communities, and their comments and suggestions had been incorporated into the revised strategy.

143. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico and South Africa.

144. Working Group II resumed its consideration of agenda item 8 at its 4th meeting, on 2 May 2012.

145. Statements were made by representatives of Brazil, Burundi, Colombia, France, Ghana, Japan, Peru, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Uruguay.

146. A statement was also made by a representative of FAO.

147. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that she would prepare a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/12, reflecting the views

expressed by participants and written submissions to the Secretariat, for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

148. The Working Group discussed the revised version of the draft recommendation at its 5th meeting, on 3 May 2012.

149. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, China, Colombia, Guatemala, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

150. The Working Group agreed to forward the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.4.

#### ***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

151. At its 3rd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.4, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/11. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

### **ITEM 10. NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES**

152. Agenda item 10 was taken up by Working Group II at its 4th session, on 2 May 2012 under the chairmanship of Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria). In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/13) and an information document on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/35).

153. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

154. Statements were also made by representatives of FAO and UN/DOALOS.

155. Further statements were made by representatives of the Alliance for Biodiversity in Latin America, ETC Group, and Friends of the Earth United States (speaking also on behalf of the International Center for Technology Assessment and the Center for Food Safety).

156. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that she would prepare a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/13, reflecting the views expressed by participants and written submissions to the Secretariat, for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

157. The Working Group discussed the revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/13 at its 5th meeting, on 3 May 2012.

158. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, the European Union, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

159. Statements were also made by representatives of the Alliance for Biodiversity in Latin America, ETC Group, the Federation of Germany Scientists, and the International Center for Technology

Assessment (speaking also on behalf of the Center for Food Safety and supported by Friends of the Earth United States).

160. Following the statements, the Co-Chair established an open-ended drafting group, chaired by Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico), to discuss the draft recommendation.

161. At its 6th meeting, on 4 May 2012, the Working Group heard a progress report from the chair of the drafting group and resumed its consideration of the draft recommendation.

162. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

163. As a result of the discussion, it was decided to create a group of the Friends of the Chair, to be facilitated by Mr. Andrew Stott (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), to consider outstanding issues.

164. At its 8th meeting, on 4 May 2012, the Working Group heard a progress report from Mr. Stott, facilitator of the group of the Friends of the Chair, and continued its discussion on the basis of the text he presented.

165. Statements were made by representatives of the European Union, the Philippines and Sweden.

166. The Working Group agreed to forward the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.14.

#### ***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

167. At its 4th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.14, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/12. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

### **ITEM 11. BIOFUELS AND BIODIVERSITY: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING DECISION X/37**

168. Working Group I took up agenda item 11 at its 3rd meeting, on 1 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ole Hendrickson (Canada). In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on biofuels and biodiversity: report on the work in response to decision X/37 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/14) and an information document on biofuels and biodiversity: further information on the work in response to decision X/37 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/32).

169. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat said that the documents before the Working Group had previously been submitted for peer review, and had been finalised in light of comments received .

170. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, India, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

171. Statements were also made by representatives of Biofuelwatch, EcoNexus (speaking also on behalf of USC Canada), the Global Forest Coalition and IUCN.

172. Given the divergent views expressed during the discussion, it was decided, at the suggestion of the Co-Chair, to establish a group of the Friends of the Chair to consider the matter.

173. At its 6th meeting, on 3 May 2012, the Working Group heard a progress report from Mr. Horst Korn (Germany), who acted as facilitator for the group of the Friends of the Chair.

174. At its 9th meeting, on 4 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinea), the Working Group heard a further progress report from Mr. Korn, who introduced a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/14, prepared by the Secretariat. He explained that it represented a delicate balance achieved during consultations.

175. Statements were made by representatives of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Malaysia, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

176. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.10.

177. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed a reservation regarding operative paragraph 1 of the proposed decision contained in the draft recommendation, specifically the references to “land tenure” and “including water”.

#### ***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

178. At its 3rd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.10, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/13. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

### **ITEM 12. INCENTIVE MEASURES: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING DECISION X/44**

179. Working Group I took up agenda item 12 at its 3rd meeting, on 1 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ole Hendrickson (Canada). In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary containing a progress report on activities undertaken by Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and initiatives, and the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/15) and an information document on incentive measures: synthesis of information on progress in implementing decision X/44 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/36).

180. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, India, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

181. Statements were also made by representatives of EcoNexus and IUCN.

182. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that he would prepare a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/15, reflecting the views expressed by participants and written submissions to the Secretariat, for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

183. The Working Group discussed the revised version of the draft recommendation at its 6th and 7th meetings, on 3 May 2012.

184. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Rwanda, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and also the United States of America.

185. The Working Group resumed its consideration of the revised version of the draft recommendation at its 9th meeting, on 4 May 2012.

186. Statements were made by representatives of Denmark and India.

187. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.9.

***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

188. At its 3rd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.9, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/14. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

**ITEM 13. REPORTS ON COLLABORATIVE WORK IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTS AND HEALTH**

189. Working Group I took up agenda item 13 at its 3rd meeting, on 1 May 2012, under the chairmanship of Mr. Maadjou Bah (Guinea). In considering the item, the Working Group had before it a note by the Executive Secretary concerning the reports on collaborative work in the areas of agriculture, forests and health (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/16) and information notes on the report on collaborative work on biodiversity and agriculture (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/33) and on biodiversity and health: further information on the work in response to decision X/20, paragraph 17 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/34).

190. Statements were made by representatives of Austria, Brazil and Switzerland.

191. A further statement was made by DIVERSITAS (speaking also on behalf of the EcoHealth Alliance).

192. Working Group I resumed consideration of item at its 4th meeting, on 2 May 2012.

193. Statements were made by representatives of Canada, Ethiopia and the Philippines.

194. A statement was also made by a representative of FAO.

195. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that he would prepare a revised version of the draft recommendation contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/16, reflecting the views expressed by participants and written submissions to the Secretariat, for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

196. The Working Group discussed the revised version of the draft recommendation at its 7th meeting, on 3 May 2012, and its 8th meeting, on 4 May 2012.

197. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Ethiopia, the European Union, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway and Peru.

198. A statement was also made by a representative of DIVERSITAS.

199. The Working Group agreed to transmit the draft recommendation, as orally amended, to the plenary as draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.8.

***Action by the Subsidiary Body***

200. At its 3rd plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted draft recommendation UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.8, as orally amended, as recommendation XVI/15. The text of the recommendation as adopted is contained in the annex to the present report.

**ITEM 14. OTHER MATTERS**

201. No other matters were discussed.

**ITEM 15. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

202. The present report was adopted, as orally amended, at the 4th plenary session of the Subsidiary Body, on 5 May 2012, on the basis of the draft report prepared by the Rapporteur (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.1) and the reports of the two sessional working groups (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/L.1/Add.1 and Add.2).

**ITEM 16. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

203. The Executive Secretary welcomed the progress that the Subsidiary Body had made, despite the complexities of its work at the interface between science and policy-making. The establishment of IPBES would not diminish the responsibilities of the Subsidiary Body; rather, it would help to support its work and enhance its discussions. In the face of the challenges some countries experienced in implementing the Convention, he reaffirmed the commitment of the Secretariat and partners to providing the necessary support.

204. The Chair said that the Subsidiary Body was on the right track to safeguard the future of biodiversity. Praising the will demonstrated to find common solutions to difficult problems, she urged Parties to engage fully with their regional Bureau members and the Secretariat in pursuing the objectives of the Convention. She expressed appreciation to all those who had assisted and advised her during her two terms as Chair of the Subsidiary Body.

205. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was closed at 4.15 p.m., on 5 May 2012.

*Appendix I***STATEMENT BY THE UNFCCC SECRETARIAT****Item 7.1 of the agenda: Advice on the application of relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity, and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to monitor or assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity**

The secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC secretariat) welcomes this opportunity to present a statement to the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its secretariat (SCBD) on the occasion of the sixteenth session of its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Montreal, Canada from April 30 to May 5, 2012. The UNFCCC secretariat would like to take this opportunity to note its close collaboration with the SCBD on matters relating to biodiversity and climate change, in particular on issues relating to biodiversity, environmental and social aspects of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD-plus).

The UNFCCC secretariat would also like to express its appreciation to the SCBD for sharing the outcomes of its work, specifically the outcomes of the four expert workshops on the links between biodiversity and REDD-plus, including biodiversity safeguards, that took place between September 2010 and September 2011 with the Parties of the UNFCCC, through a submission<sup>1</sup> made to the UNFCCC in September 2011. Both secretariats collaborated on the inputs to these workshops. The UNFCCC secretariat shared with the SCBD and the participants of these workshops information, developments and guidance on REDD-plus arising from the UNFCCC process, which supported the discussions at these four expert workshops. In turn, the outcomes informed the discussions on safeguards for REDD-plus activities in the UNFCCC process.

The seventeenth session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) in Durban, South Africa last year made good progress on issues relating to REDD-plus. The COP adopted a decision on “Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected and modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels as referred to in decision 1/CP.16” (decision 12/CP.17<sup>2</sup>). A second decision relating to financing options for the full implementation of results-based actions on REDD-plus was adopted by the COP as part of the package of decisions from the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (decision 2/CP.17<sup>3</sup>).

This year, the Parties to the UNFCCC will continue their work on methodological guidance and financing options relating to REDD-plus. In particular, Parties will continue the consideration of modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying and national forest monitoring systems. In addition, the Parties will consider the need for further guidance to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness when informing how all safeguards are addressed and respected. It is expected that the outcomes will be reported to the COP at its eighteenth session.

In view of the further methodological work needed to enhance the implementation of REDD-plus activities, the UNFCCC secretariat looks forward to continuing its close working relationship with the SCBD on ongoing and future activities relating to biodiversity and REDD-plus. The two secretariats will continue to work together to help Parties reach consensus on these issues, in particular those relating to biodiversity conservation and REDD-plus, enhance synergies from the outcomes of both processes and

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<sup>1</sup> This submission is available on: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/smsn/igo/137.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The full text of the decision can be found at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a02.pdf#page=16>

<sup>3</sup> The full text of the decision can be found at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf#page=4>

build capacities to facilitate the implementation of REDD-plus actions while simultaneously conserving biodiversity in developing country Parties.



*Annex*

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,  
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE AT ITS SIXTEENTH MEETING  
(Montreal, 30 April-5 May 2012)**

**CONTENTS**

	<i>Page</i>
XVI/1. Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the subsidiary body and options for collaboration with the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services .....	32
XVI/2. Considerations for the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook .....	35
XVI/3. Island biodiversity: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work .....	39
XVI/4. Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas .....	43
XVI/5. Marine and coastal biodiversity: sustainable fisheries and addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity .....	69
XVI/6. Marine biodiversity: marine spatial planning and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas .....	74
XVI/7. Advice on the application of relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity, and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity .....	77
XVI/8. Proposals on integrating biodiversity considerations into climate-change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information .....	80
XVI/9. Technical and regulatory matters on geoengineering in relation to the convention on biological diversity.....	83
XVI/10. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation .....	86
<a href="#">XVI/11.</a> Capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative .....	90
XVI/12. New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity .....	97
XVI/13. Biofuels and Biodiversity .....	100
XVI/14. Incentive measures: progress in implementing decision X/44.....	102
XVI/15. Reports on collaborative work on biodiversity and agriculture, forests, and biodiversity and health.....	105

**XVI/1. *Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the subsidiary body and options for collaboration with the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services***

A. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopts a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions VIII/9, IX/15, X/2 and X/11, and *emphasizing* that regular assessments are needed at multiple scales to provide decision-makers with the necessary information base for adaptive management and to promote the necessary political will for action in addressing biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems and ecosystem services and the implications for human well-being,

*Recalling* that the function of the Subsidiary Body, as set out in Article 25 of the Convention, is to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies, with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention, including providing scientific and technical assessments of the status of biological diversity and of the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention,

*Reaffirming* the need to strengthen the ability of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to deliver advice in this regard,

*Stressing* the need to support the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

*Recognizing* that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is an independent intergovernmental body and the need to respect its functions, operating principles and institutional arrangements,

1. *Noting* the assessment of the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in meeting its mandate contained in section II and annex II of the note by the Executive Secretary on *Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice* (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/2), *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of the necessary resources:

- (a) To collate information from existing decisions and reviews relating to:
  - (i) The scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
  - (ii) Existing policy support tools and methodologies (including intercultural tools and methodologies) developed or used under the Convention and their adequacy, impact and obstacles to their uptake and identify gaps and needs for further development of such tools and methodologies;
  - (iii) The adequacy of observations, and of data systems, for monitoring the biodiversity attributes addressed in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, drawing, *inter alia*, upon information in the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/6) and the report on the Adequacy of Biodiversity Observation Systems to Support the CBD 2020 Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/8); and

- (iv) Options for assessing the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and

(b) To report on progress on the above matters to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, on the basis of its analysis of the report on progress on the matters in paragraph 1 (b) above, to identify the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment in Panama City, Panama, on 21 April 2012, of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and other outcomes of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for this platform, in particular the decision providing for the Chair of the Subsidiary Body to participate as an observer in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, in order to promote adequate communication and synergies between SBSTTA and IPBES;

4. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider ways in which the activities of the Platform could build on and contribute to the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, as well as other future assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and information on further policy options available to deliver the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan, as appropriate and in accordance with the mandates of SBSTTA and IPBES;

5. *Considers* that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a useful flexible framework for the delivery of the biodiversity agenda at all levels and *invites* the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to consider how its work plan can contribute to their achievement;

6. *Decides* that the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, within its mandate and following further guidance of the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Should identify the scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan that could be considered by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(b) Should consider the relevant outputs from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and take them into account and complement them with further work as needed in its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to explore options for formalizing the collaboration with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

#### *B. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

1. *Takes note* of the intersessional work to be undertaken by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and *requests* the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the mandate provided through paragraph 4 of decision X/11 of the Conference of the Parties, to contribute to the intersessional work to be undertaken by the Platform and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting on the intersessional work and its implications for the Convention on Biological Diversity;

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities to submit views on the process, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, on how

requests from the Convention would be conveyed to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, based on the submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above, to prepare proposals for the consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, on how requests from the Convention on Biological Diversity would be conveyed to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

**XVI/2. Considerations for the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook**

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

1. Takes note of the conclusions of the evaluation of the process for the preparation and impacts of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/1) and requests the Executive Secretary to ensure they are taken into account in the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;

2. Also takes note of the plan for the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4) contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/3) and emphasizes that:

(a) GBO-4 should provide a mid-term assessment of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(b) GBO-4 should address:

(i) The possible policy responses that could be effective in contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(ii) The level of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (considering both national commitments, plans and targets adopted by Parties; and the level of implementation on the ground);

(iii) How achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets would contribute to the 2050 vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(iv) How progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets contributes to the Millennium Development Goals and their 2015 targets;

(c) GBO-4 should be easy to understand and accessible to a variety of different audiences and will consist of several products, to be released at key events starting with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; the content will draw on available information from a range of sources, including available information provided by Parties;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Notify relevant partners and potential contributors, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network, and DIVERSITAS among others, about the time table for preparing the various elements and products of the fourth edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook and invites those organizations to make available scientific information in accordance with the scope and production process contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/3);

(b) Initiate preparations on the basis of this plan, taking into account the comments made during the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

(c) Provide the SBSTTA Bureau with regular reports on progress in preparing GBO-4 with a view to enabling the Bureau to provide oversight of the preparation process;

(d) Establish, in accordance with the guidance on the composition of expert groups contained in the consolidated modus operandi of SBSTTA (decision VIII/10, annex III), an advisory group for the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, in order to provide guidance of the preparation process of GBO-4 at the earliest possible time, and to review and provide advice on data and methodology standards, development plans and outputs, quality assurance and the inclusion of case-studies;

(e) Ensure that the advisory group and the SBSTTA Bureau, in overseeing and guiding the preparation of GBO-4, make the best use of available resources, including by consultations through electronic means and meetings at the margins of other relevant events;

(f) Explore, in collaboration with the advisory group and the SBSTTA Bureau, ways in which the activities of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services could build on and contribute to the fourth edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook, as well as other future assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with a view to minimizing duplication of effort and information and maximizing complementarity between the two processes, as appropriate and in accordance with the mandates of SBSTTA and IPBES;

(g) Share the evaluation of GBO-3 and the plans for GBO-4 with the interim secretariat of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) for consideration in the further elaboration of the IPBES work programme;

(h) Seek the help of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in updating indicators used in GBO-3 and in preparing new indicators to support the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(i) Provide a progress report on the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, at its eleventh meeting, adopts a decision along the following lines:

*“The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* paragraph 13 of decision X/2 that the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook shall be prepared to provide a mid-term review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including an analysis of how the implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan has contributed to the 2015 targets of the Millennium Development Goals,

*Also recalling* paragraphs 5 and 6 of decision X/10, which, *inter alia*, requests the Global Environment Facility and invites other donors, Governments and multilateral and bilateral agencies to provide adequate and timely financial support for the preparation of the fifth national reports,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report on the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook provided to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Stressing* the importance of national reports and their timely submission to the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and *recalling* decision X/10, *urges* Parties to submit their fifth national reports by 31 March 2014 at the latest;

3. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments and relevant organizations, including indigenous and local communities, to make available data, information and case-studies, for possible inclusion in the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, including by using appropriate indicator frameworks, drawing on, *inter alia*, the flexible framework and the indicative list of indicators identified in the annex to SBSTTA

recommendation XV/1,<sup>4</sup> on the status and trends of and threats to biological diversity, drivers of biodiversity loss and the measures to address them, and progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, by providing such information in their fifth national reports or through earlier submissions, making use, as appropriate, of the material already available on the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership web pages;

4. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments and relevant organizations to support Parties in providing data relevant to the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;

5. *Welcomes* the early financial pledges by the European Union and Switzerland to facilitate the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;

6. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments and donors to make timely financial contributions for the preparation and production of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and its ancillary products, including translations in all United Nations languages, in accordance with the work plan and budget estimates for its preparation;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Continue collaborating with other biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant processes, including IPBES and other organizations and partners, including of indigenous and local communities, and to engage them in the preparations of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

(b) Keep the work plan, communication strategy and financial plan for the development of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook under review in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau in order to make adjustments as appropriate and necessary and to report on progress through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on a periodic basis;

(c) Further develop, in collaboration with relevant partners, including with the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, and in line with the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness, the communication strategy for the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, including capacity building activities on the use of the outcomes and products of GBO-4, seeking synergies with activities under the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 and other initiatives and events as appropriate;

(d) Provide guidance on the type of information that Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including indigenous and local communities, may wish to provide for possible inclusion in the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and, in particular, highlight key information needs in the resource manual for the preparation of the fifth national reports, encouraging Parties to submit this key information early;

(e) Make use of relevant regional and subregional capacity-building workshops organized under the Convention to facilitate inputs and contributions to the preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook;

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<sup>4</sup> The reference to SBSTTA recommendation XV/1 may be updated following consideration of this recommendation at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(f) Make a draft of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook available for review at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**XVI/3. Island biodiversity: in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work**

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

1. Welcomes the proposed initiative of island States and those Parties managing islands for research and conservation to organize an island summit on the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to highlight island leadership, progress and new commitments in implementing the programme of work on island biodiversity and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

2. Recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

*“The Conference of the Parties*

*Alarmed* by the continued and ongoing loss of island biodiversity and the irreversible impacts of this loss for island peoples and the world, and *acknowledging* that 80 per cent of known species extinctions have occurred on islands and that more than 40 per cent of vertebrates currently threatened with extinction are island species,<sup>5</sup>

*Acknowledging* progress made in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by small island developing States and least developed countries with islands and the support for this process provided by the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility enabling activity project,

*Noting* that additional efforts and support are needed in order to fully engage relevant sectors of government and society, in particular indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations, for implementing and mainstreaming the programme of work on island biodiversity across all these sectors with a view to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,

*Aware* that invasive alien species, climate change, and unsustainable development including unsustainable tourism are among the major drivers of biodiversity loss on islands with complex linkages that are best addressed by collaborative and integrated action with other sectors,

*Also aware* that biodiversity loss is not restricted to islands with human populations, but is also of major concern in many uninhabited or seasonally inhabited islands,

*Also aware* that sustainable management of marine, freshwater and terrestrial resources in islands is important to food security, adaptation to climate change, public health and livelihoods,

*Respecting* the traditional/cultural knowledge, skills and management measures that have helped island populations use and manage their environment and resources over many centuries, and, in that context, *recognizing* that the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization provides an important instrument to ensure that islands benefit from the use of their genetic resources,

*Appreciating* the continued strong commitment and progress achieved by Parties and their partners committed to voluntary island “challenges”, especially the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge initiative, the Coral Triangle Initiative and the Phoenix Island Protected Area, which in turn inspired the development of the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge and the Far West Africa Challenge, and the development of the Charter on the Conservation and

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.issg.org/pdf/publications/Island\\_Invasives/pdfHQprint/1Keitt.pdf](http://www.issg.org/pdf/publications/Island_Invasives/pdfHQprint/1Keitt.pdf).

Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity on European Islands<sup>6</sup> under the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats and *recognizing* the value of high-level events and summits under these initiatives to galvanize political will and new funding arrangements and partnerships,

*Recognizing* the significant progress on sustainable financing mechanisms developed in island regions for climate change and biodiversity, including: the Micronesia Conservation Trust; the Mama Graun Conservation Trust Fund in Papua New Guinea; the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund; the European Parliament's Preparatory Action for a Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST); and emerging "debt-for-adaptation-to-climate-change" swaps in islands,

*Taking note with appreciation* the activities of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as a mechanism for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and a partnership under the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development,

*Reaffirming* the importance of adopting and implementing adequate legislation to address conservation issues on islands as well as measures to enforce it,

*Reiterating* the need for increased international and national support for islands, in particular small island developing States, to implement the programme of work and strengthen local capacity by providing new and additional financial resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, and incentives,

1. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments, financial institutions and other relevant organizations to strengthen the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity and to build on successful island approaches by:

(a) Promoting and supporting high-level regional commitments, such as the island challenges referred to above and other large-scale efforts that have demonstrated success in rapidly increasing protected areas and other Aichi Biodiversity Targets relevant to the programme of work on island biodiversity;

(b) Adapting and expanding proven, cost-effective mechanisms to strengthen local capacity, particularly peer-learning networks, learning exchanges, transfer of technologies, sharing of lessons learned and best practices, communication and information exchange tools, targeted technical assistance, formal training and education;

(c) Consider developing innovative financial arrangements supplementary to Article 21 of the Convention to support long-term implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity, including trust funds, debt for adaptation to climate change swaps, payments for ecosystem services, and fees on tourism or natural resource use dedicated to effective conservation;

(d) Maintaining and supporting key databases and information portals such as the Global Islands Database, the Threatened Island Biodiversity Database, the Database of Island Invasive Species Eradications, the Global Invasive Species Database, the Island Biodiversity and Invasive Species database, and SIDSNet to enable effective invasive species monitoring and eradication prioritization on islands, as valuable tools in support of the implementation of the programme of work;

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<sup>6</sup> T-PVS/Inf (2011) 8 revised, Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

2. *Calls on Parties* to continue to focus international attention and action on the six priorities included in decision IX/21 as they affect livelihood and island economies: the management and eradication of invasive alien species, climate-change adaptation and mitigation activities, establishment and management of marine protected areas, capacity-building, access to, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and poverty alleviation, with particular attention to:

(a) Developing and strengthening regional and local collaboration to manage invasive alien species within and across jurisdictions, including the diversity of successful approaches to prevention, control and eradication where feasible, and to adopt a biosecurity approach that addresses the full range of invasive threats; and

(b) Mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, ecosystem restoration and invasive species management for human health and well-being into all island development and conservation plans and projects and build capacity in their application;

3. *Also calls on Parties* to:

(a) Accord priority to the management of terrestrial protected areas, including inland waters;

(b) Enhance regional and international cooperation with a view to addressing transboundary pollution that has significant impacts on island ecosystems, including through mitigating discharges from land-based sources, particularly areas with excess nutrient inputs;

(c) Support subnational implementation of the Convention in islands, by engaging subnational and local authorities through the Plan of Action for Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, adopted in decision X/22, and as informed by the assessment of the links and opportunities between urbanization and biodiversity (the “Cities and Biodiversity Outlook”);

4. *Encourages Parties*, other Governments and relevant organizations to enter into partnerships across sectors to:

(a) Develop, disseminate and integrate appropriate tools and processes to apply findings of the study of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and other valuation tools to support decision-making at the island level;

(b) Use the opportunity of revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans to further mainstream biodiversity conservation with other key sectors (e.g., mining, agriculture, fisheries, health, energy, tourism, integrated marine/coastal management, education and development) and to determine specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound national targets, and related indicators, in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, at the island level and within the context of domestic priorities;

(c) Coordinate these efforts with the process led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) to assess implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and its associated Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

(d) Explore possibilities of engaging national and local leadership in public-private partnerships and encourage participatory approaches for the sustainable management of natural resources;

5. *Invites Parties* to recognize and engage with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as an effective partner to support implementation of the programme of work;

6. *Takes note* of the “Small Islands, Big Difference” campaign coordinated by Island Conservation on invasive alien species launched at the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body and *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to engage with the campaign;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with international and regional organizations as well as relevant convention secretariats with a view to promoting coherent and harmonized national information systems related to the reporting needs of the biodiversity-related conventions, and for joint reporting as appropriate for small island developing States and least developed countries with islands;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funding, to enable regional and global technical support networks to help the ongoing review, updating and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in small island developing States and least developed countries with islands, in particular for developing national targets and for mainstreaming national biodiversity strategies and action plans into broader national plans, programmes and policies to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

**XVI/4. Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas**

A. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

**Description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)**

*Recalling* paragraphs 165 and 167 of General Assembly resolution 66/231 of 24 December 2011, including its annex, on oceans and the law of the sea,

*Recalling* paragraphs 21 to 26 of decision X/29, in which the Conference of the Parties recognized that the Convention on Biological Diversity has a key role in supporting the work of the General Assembly with regard to marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, by focusing on provision of scientific and, as appropriate, technical information and advice relating to marine biological diversity, the application of the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Japan for funding, to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for hosting and co-organizing, and to the Government of Australia for providing technical support through the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to the Western South Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs, held in Nadi, Fiji, from 22 to 25 November 2011; to the European Commission for funding, the Government of Brazil for hosting, and the UNEP/Caribbean Environment Programme for co-organizing the Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop, held in Recife, Brazil, from 28 February to 2 March 2012; and to the French Government for hosting, OSPAR and NEAFC for convening, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Joint OSPAR/NEAFC/CBD Scientific Workshop on the Identification of EBSAs in the North-East Atlantic, held in Hyeres, France, on 8-9 September 2011;

2. *Welcomes* the scientific and technical evaluation of information contained in the reports of the regional workshops referred to in paragraph 1 above (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5, UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7), which provide scientific and technical evaluation of information on the application of scientific criteria (decision IX/20, annex I), as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, noting that additional regional workshops are to be convened in other regions in time to be considered by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the participatory manner by which these regional workshops were convened, and the use of the best available scientific and technical information, which has provided a basis for the reports on the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs, prepared by the Subsidiary Body at its sixteenth meeting, as contained in the summary report in the annex to the present decision and supplemented by the annexes to UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5,<sup>7</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7, as well as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8;

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<sup>7</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5 is to be revised, and reflected in summary form in the annex to this recommendation, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part B of this recommendation.

4. *Noting* that during their 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting held in Paris, from 8 to 10 February 2012, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols adopted decision IG.20/7 regarding the conservation of sites of particular interest in the Mediterranean and requested the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention to contact the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to present the work carried out regarding the identification of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the Mediterranean, *takes note of* the Synthesis Report, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8;

5. *Noting* that the application of the scientific criteria for EBSAs is a scientific and technical exercise and *emphasizing* that the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as stated in paragraph 26 of decision X/29, [*endorses*], as a reference for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, the summary reports as contained in the annex to the present decision, prepared by the Subsidiary Body at its sixteenth meeting, based on scientific and technical evaluation of information from the workshops, setting out details of the areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs (decision IX/20, annex I), and *requests* the Executive Secretary to include the summary reports [*endorsed* by the Conference of the Parties] on the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs in the repository, as referred to in paragraph 39 of decision X/29, and, in line with the procedures and purpose set out in paragraph 42 of decision X/29, to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, as well as to submit them to Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations, and *further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit them to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, as well as to provide them as a source of information to United Nations specialized agencies;<sup>8</sup>

6. *Takes note* of the need to promote additional research and monitoring in accordance with national and international laws, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to improve the ecological or biological information in each region with a view to facilitating the further description of the areas already described, the future description of other areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria;

7. *Reaffirms* the need to facilitate the participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, in targeted research schemes called for in paragraphs 10, 20 (b) and 48 of decision X/29, including in oceanographic cruises as well as in those research schemes promoted by the International Seabed Authority;

8. *Affirms* that scientific description of areas meeting scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant criteria is an open process that should be continued to allow ongoing improvement and updating as improved scientific and technical information becomes available in each region;

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<sup>8</sup> Noting that any measures taken with respect to the areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs described in reports referred to in this paragraph, including any selection of conservation and management measures, must be in conformity with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further collaborate with Parties, other Governments and competent organizations and global and regional initiatives, such as the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), with regard to fisheries management, to facilitate the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs, and the further description of the areas already described, through the organization of additional regional or subregional workshops for the remaining regions or regions where new information becomes available, as appropriate, subject to availability of financial resources, and make the reports available for consideration by future meetings of the Subsidiary Body. The summary reports from the SBSTTA will be made available for future meetings of the Conference of the Parties for endorsement with a view to including the reports endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in the repository in line with the procedures and purpose set out in paragraph 42 of decision X/29;

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further collaborate with Parties, other Governments and competent organizations to build capacity within countries to address regional priorities of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, including those countries with globally significant upwelling systems through the organization of regional or subregional capacity-building workshops, as called for in paragraph 37 of decision X/29, and other means;

#### ***EBSA repository and information-sharing mechanism***

11. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Germany for funding and *welcomes* the EBSA prototype repository and information sharing mechanism for scientific and technical information and experience related to the application of the scientific criteria (annex I to decision IX/20) as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria. This mechanism serves as a web-based input tool and database to assist Parties, other Governments and competent organizations in sharing scientific and technical information and experience related to the application of the scientific criteria for EBSAs in annex I of decision IX/20, as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, and provides scientific information and data to the regional workshops convened by the Executive Secretary, as called for in paragraph 36 of decision X/29 and paragraph 9 above, to describe areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs and other relevant criteria;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further develop, subject to availability of financial resources, the prototype repository and information-sharing mechanism into a fully functional repository and information-sharing mechanism so that it can fully serve the purpose called for in paragraph 39 of decision X/29, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IOC), in particular the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC), Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative, and other competent organizations, *noting* the need to have a clear distinction between the repository containing the information included on the basis of endorsements by the Conference of the Parties as called for in paragraph 42 of decision X/29 and other information entered in the information sharing mechanism, and report on progress to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

13. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and intergovernmental organizations to develop regional data inventories with metadata, taking into consideration their confidentiality, where applicable,

which are linked to the information-sharing mechanism (paragraph 39 of decision X/29) and other relevant data sources, in order to track the location of datasets used in the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs by the regional workshops, to be undertaken in the remaining regions, as referred to in paragraph 36 of decision X/29 and paragraph 9 above, and, *recalling* paragraph 41 of decision X/29, *requests* the Executive Secretary to make the scientific information and data sets compiled by the regional workshops available to Parties, other Governments and intergovernmental organizations for their use according to their competencies, and report on progress of such collaboration to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

14. *Recalling* paragraph 18 of decision IX/20 and paragraph 43 of decision X/29, *requests* Parties, and other Governments to further provide for inclusion in the repository or information-sharing mechanism, as determined by submitting Parties or Governments, scientific and technical information and experience relating to the application of the criteria in annex I to decision IX/20 or other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria to areas within national jurisdiction before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

#### ***EBSAs capacity-building***

15. *Welcomes* the work of the Executive Secretary, generously funded by the Government of Germany, to develop the EBSA training manual and modules, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/9, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to further refine the training manual and modules, as necessary, including further consultation with Parties and the development of training materials on the use of traditional knowledge. When suitably revised, *requests* the Executive Secretary to translate the EBSA training manual and modules into the official United Nations languages, and *invites* Parties, other Governments and United Nations specialized agencies to use these training materials and other means, as appropriate, and, as far as possible, make necessary resources available for this purpose, in order to enhance the scientific and technical capacity within respective countries and regions with regard to describing areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs;

16. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to strengthen the capacities of countries in scientific staff training and report the progress for consideration at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate, subject to availability of financial resources, the organization of training workshops using these training materials in support of future scientific description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs at national and regional levels as well as identification of EBSAs by States and competent intergovernmental organizations;

#### ***Social and cultural criteria for the description of EBSAs***

18. *Welcomes* the report *Identifying specific elements for integrating the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, and social and cultural criteria and other aspects for the application of scientific criteria for identification of EBSAs as well as the establishment and management of marine protected areas* (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/10), noting that the best available scientific and technical knowledge, including relevant traditional knowledge, should be the basis for the description of areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs, that additional social and cultural information may be relevant in any subsequent step of selecting conservation and management measures, and that indigenous and local communities should be included in this process, as appropriate;

19. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and competent intergovernmental organizations, and relevant indigenous and local communities, to make use of the guidance on integration of traditional

knowledge in the report mentioned in paragraph 18 above, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, where applicable, in any future description of areas that meet the EBSA criteria and for the development of conservation and management measures, and report on progress in this regard to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

20. *Notes* that socially and culturally significant areas may require enhanced conservation and management measures, and that criteria for the identification of areas relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in need of such enhanced measures due to their social, cultural and other significance may need to be developed, with appropriate scientific and technical rationales;

21. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations to provide adequate, timely, and sustainable support to the implementation of training and capacity-building and other activities related to EBSAs, especially for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition.

#### B. *The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to include the results of regional workshops on describing areas that meet the criteria for EBSAs to be convened by the Executive Secretary and, where appropriate, in conjunction with regional seas conventions and regional fisheries management organizations, with regard to fisheries management, in accordance with paragraph 36 of decision X/29 and paragraph 9 above, in the information-sharing mechanism referred to in paragraph 11 above, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at a future meeting, with a view to subsequent submission to a meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraph 42 of decision X/29 and paragraph 5 above;

2. *Noting* that workshops have not yet been held in some regions, and emphasizing that all regions should have the opportunity to participate in the process for describing areas that meet the EBSA criteria, *requests* the Executive Secretary to accord high priority to the organization of additional workshops, with a view to covering all regions where Parties wish workshops to be held, *further requests* the Executive Secretary to make available to Parties as soon as possible, before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a schedule of regional workshops to be convened, and *invites* Parties, other Governments and donors to support these workshops;

3. *Recognizing* that there is an ongoing scientific and technical process with respect to the areas in the North-East Atlantic described in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5/Add.1, *requests* the Executive Secretary to include the revised results of the regional workshop for the North-East Atlantic, in accordance with paragraph 36 of decision X/29, and accompanying process, to the extent that these revised results describe areas that are geographically included in those set out in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5, before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in the summary report, in the same format and details, prepared by the Subsidiary Body at its sixteenth meeting, pursuant to paragraph 42 of decision X/29.

*Annex***SUMMARY REPORT ON THE DESCRIPTION OF AREAS MEETING THE SCIENTIFIC CRITERIA FOR ECOLOGICALLY OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS<sup>9</sup>**

1. In paragraph 36 of decision X/29, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to work with Parties and other Governments as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), with regards to fisheries management, to organize, including the setting of terms of references, subject to the availability of financial resources, a series of regional workshops, before a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through application of scientific criteria in annex I to decision IX/20 and other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which meet the scientific criteria in annex I to decision IX/20;
2. In paragraph 42 of the same decision, the Conference of Parties to the Convention requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to prepare reports based on scientific and technical evaluation of information from the workshops, setting out details of areas that meet the criteria in annex I to decision IX/20 for consideration and endorsement in a transparent manner by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a view to include the endorsed reports in the repository referred to in paragraph 39 of decision X/29 and to submit them to the United Nations General Assembly and particularly its Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, as well as relevant international organizations, Parties and other Governments;
3. Pursuant to the above request, a series of regional workshops were convened either by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity or by competent intergovernmental regional organizations in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including: (i) CBD Western South Pacific Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs held in Nadi, Fiji, from 22 -25 November 2011; and (ii) CBD Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of EBSAs held in Recife, Brazil, from 28 February to 2 March 2011;
4. The summary of the results of these regional workshops are provided in tables 1 and 2 below, respectively, while full application of the criteria are provided in the annexes to the respective reports of the workshops (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7);
5. Table 3 presents the outcome of the work carried out within the framework of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. The synthesis report on this work is being made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8);

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<sup>9</sup> The designations employed and the presentation of material in this annex do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

6. In paragraph 26 of decision X/29, the Conference of Parties noted that the application of the ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) criteria is a scientific and technical exercise, that areas found to meet the criteria may require enhanced conservation and management measures, and that this can be achieved through a variety of means, including marine protected areas and impact assessments, and emphasized that the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas and the selection of conservation and management measures is a matter for States and competent intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

7. The description of marine areas meeting the scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Nor does it have economic or legal implications, and is strictly a scientific and technical exercise.

### Key to the tables

#### RANKING OF EBSA CRITERIA

##### Relevance

**H: High**

**M: Medium;**

**L:Low;**

**-:No information**

#### CRITERIA

- **C1:** Uniqueness or rarity
- **C2:** Special importance for life-history stages of species
- **C3:** Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats
- **C4:** Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery
- **C5:** Biological productivity
- **C6:** Biological diversity
- **C7:** Naturalness

*Table 1. Description of areas meeting EBSAs Criteria in Western South Pacific region*

*(Details are described in Appendix to Annex 5 of Report of the Western South Pacific Regional Workshop on EBSAs, in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/6)*

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49 above						
<p><b>1. Phoenix Islands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: The Phoenix EBSA includes all of the Kiribati islands of the Phoenix archipelago and the surrounding sea mounts.</li> <li>• The Phoenix Islands have a diverse bathymetry, a number of Bioregions and several shallow seamounts. There are 6 seamounts within this area, strong eddy fields in the surface water and upwelling occurs which heightens the concentration of rich (minerals) nutrients for phytoplankton and zooplanktons. This nutrient rich area leads to high levels of biodiversity and species of economic importance including sharks, billfish, tuna and other by-catch species. There are 5 Important Bird Areas which makes the Phoenix Islands important for a specific life stages for endangered species. There are numerous kinds of sea crabs and turtles and other highly migratory species are common. There was a high catch of Sperm whales in the Phoenix during the early 1900s. There are several IUCN Red List Species documented and the OBIS dataset shows a high number of species.</li> </ul>	M	H	H	H	H	H	H
<p><b>2. Ua Puakaoa Seamounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Approximately 164°W and 21°S.</li> <li>• A seamount system characterized by a seamount located within 300m of the sea surface, another approximately 1000m below the surface, with strong current eddies at the surface, most likely caused by significant upwellings. It is likely to have high benthic biodiversity, and possibly a high degree of endemism, which can be associated with isolated seamount systems.</li> </ul>	M	-	-	H	L	M	H
<p><b>3. Seamounts of West Norfolk Ridge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: North boundary: South of New Caledonia; South boundary: species dependent, around 30°S (south of Norfolk Island) if based on fish communities. (Clive and Roberts 2008; Zintzen 2010).</li> <li>• An ecoregional analysis of New Caledonia held in 2005 has indentified Seamounts of Norfolk ridge within New Caledonia EEZ as of international relevance based on 8 national criteria.</li> </ul>	H	H	M	H	H	H	H
<p><b>4. Remetau Group: South-west Caroline Islands and northern New Guinea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Bounded by 6.9°N, 137.7°E and 2.8°S, 146.6°E at its north-west and south-eastern most limits.</li> <li>• The oceanic islands of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), also known as the Caroline Islands,</li> </ul>	H	H	M	-	M	M	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
For key to criteria, see page 49 above							
<p>are home to some of the most biologically diverse coral reefs in the world. Many individuals, communities, agencies and organizations are acting to conserve the irreplaceable natural resources of the FSM. The EBSA encompasses this priority area and the north-west extent of the Papua New Guinea EEZ. The area supports high seamount diversity, a marine Important Bird Area defined by a key non-breeding foraging concentration of Streaked Shearwater <i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>, an area of high tuna catch rates and historically high Sperm Whale harvest.</p>							
<p><b>5. Kadavu and the Southern Lau Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: between 18-23° S, and 173-179° E.</li> <li>• Kadavu is the fourth largest island in the Fiji Group, of volcanic origin and is biogeographically connected to the Southern Lau group. Kadavu islands are surrounded by a very productive barrier reef system and have the second largest barrier reef system in Fiji, the Great Astrolobe Reef. It supports two endemic bird species. The Southern Lau islands contain some volcanic islands and several isolated limestone oceanic atoll islands with a range of habitats including seagrass beds, oceanic patch reefs, extensive barrier reef systems, seamounts, submarine canyons and the Lau Ridge. The isolated oceanic conditions provide a distinct range of habitats and species diversity and provide important breeding and nesting areas for seabirds, Green and Hawksbill turtles. The marine area also supports an important migration corridor for a number of great whale species including Humpback, Minke, Sei and Sperm whales, and a number of smaller whales and dolphin species. The area has been identified by OBIS as a very rich and productive fishing ground for all species within the inner reefs, offshore pelagic and deepwater benthic fisheries, and also have typical seamount associated fisheries, corals and invertebrates.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
<p><b>6. Kermadec-Tonga-Louisville Junction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: The site is centred on about 25°S, 175°W.</li> <li>• There is a triple junction area at about 25°S, 175°W where the Louisville Seamount Chain subducts into the Kermadec and Tonga Trench region. It features seamount and trench habitat, with specialized fauna in each environment. The Kermadec and Tonga Trenches have endemic species of fish, scavenging amphipod species are prominent in both trenches, and there is a bathyal deep-sea seamount fauna on the Louisville Seamounts.</li> </ul>	H	-	M	M	M	H	H
<p><b>7. Monowai Seamount</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Boundaries are latitudes -25.7 to -25.94, longitudes 182.5 to 183.0.</li> <li>• Monowai seamount comprises an active volcanic cone, with a caldera that has extensive hydrothermal venting at depths of about 1200 m. Vent communities comprise tubeworms, dense beds of</li> </ul>	H	-	M	M	H	H	H

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49 above						
bathymodiolid mussels, lithodid crabs, and zoarcid fishes. The seamount is at the northern end of a series of vent communities along the Kermadec back arc which has broadly similar fauna.							
<p><b>8. New Britain Trench Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: The New Britain Trench and hydrothermal vents clusters is located in the North-east of Papua New Guinea including the passage between New Ireland and New Britain.</li> <li>The southern waters of New Britain lie over the New Britain Trench. The area poses high species productivity and richness. This region extends to include clusters of fishable seamounts and hydrothermal vents aggregation in the western, northern to eastern sides of New Ireland, indicating spots of ecological and biological importance.</li> </ul>	M	L	M	M	M	M	H
<p><b>9. New Hebrides Trench Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Between New Caledonia and Vanuatu, from a northern extent of 17.921°S, 166.975°W to a southern extent of 21.378°S, 170.961°W.</li> <li>The New Hebrides Trench is a large oceanic trench between New Caledonia and Vanuatu. The EBSA extends from the south extent of Papua New Guinea, wrapping around the southern extent of Vanuatu. The New Hebrides Trench region includes both Abyssal and Lower Bathyal features and seamounts within the national jurisdiction of Vanuatu but straddles portion of the New Caledonia waters. The site surrounds three major islands – Efate, Tanna and Erromango. The EBSA covers a range of habitats including seamounts, deep trenches (up to 7600m deep).</li> </ul>	H	H	-	M	L	H	H
<p><b>10. Rarotonga Outer Reef Slopes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: located at latitude 21°12'S and longitude 158°46'W.</li> <li>From the currently available data, it shows that the outer reef of Rarotonga contains 12 endemic fish species occurring at depths to 300m but possibly deeper. The available OBIS data indicates that the area contains several IUCN vulnerable and threatened species including corals but other IUCN species such as whales and sharks also inhabit the area. The area also has a high value for shallow water species as reflected in the OBIS data sets.</li> </ul>	H	-	H	-	-	H	-
<p><b>11. Samoan Archipelago</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Approximately 15 °S and between 166 °W and 174 °W.</li> <li>The Samoan Archipelago consists of 6 islands and 1 atoll in American Samoa, and 2 large islands and 4 islets in Independent Samoa. The islands of the archipelago comprise a biodiversity hotspot within the western South Pacific and they show considerable connectivity, from the micro-faunal (e.g. coral larvae) to the mega-fauna (whales and turtles).</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49 above						
<p><b>12. Suvarrow National Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Suvarrow is a remote atoll in the northern Cook Islands (central Pacific Ocean) at latitude 13°14'S and longitude 163°05'W.</li> <li>• Suvarrow is an important seabird breeding and foraging area for several species in the central Pacific Ocean. Suvarrow is a breeding and foraging site for 9% of the global Lesser Frigatebird population and 3% of the global Red-tailed Tropicbird population however these percentages will be revised in the near future and increase to 13% and 4% respectively. The populations on Suvarrow are recognized as being important for maintaining and managing seabird populations on other islands. The importance of Suvarrow is reflected in its status as a Birdlife International Important Bird Area (IBA), being the most significant seabird nesting and foraging site in the Cook Islands.</li> </ul>	-	H	M	-	M	-	-
<p><b>13. South of Tuvalu/Wallis and Fortuna/North of Fiji Plateau</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: The central point is 180.122°W 12.36°S.</li> <li>• The area has been identified from the high catch activity and high productivity and has multiple large submarine canyons. This pocket of high seas partially sits along the Wallis and Fortuna plateau with a depth ranging from 3000 to 5500+ meters. It has consistent high catches of marlin and tuna, and seamount density. This EBSA contains IUCN red list species; is a turtle migration route; and has a high proportion of potential deep sea coral habitats.</li> </ul>	L	-	M	H	H	M	M
<p><b>14. Vatu-i-Ra/Lomaiviti, Fiji</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Deep channel and submarine canyons between Viti Levu and Vanua Levu covering Bligh Waters from the edge of the Yasawa Island group and western edge of the Great Sea Reef, through the Vatu-i-Ra Passage, and covering the deep waters around Namena Marine Reserve and islands of Lomaiviti province to the southeast.</li> <li>• The Vatu-i-Ra/Lomaiviti region is a hotspot for charismatic megafauna (cetaceans, sharks, turtles, seabirds), as well as a diversity center for deep species. Despite the relatively small overall area, there is a diverse benthic geomorphology, including channels, submarine canyons and seamounts. The area is surrounded by shallow coastal areas with globally significant marine value.</li> </ul>	M	M	H	M	M	H	M
<p><b>15. South Tasman Sea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Between 36°S (NW), 40°S (NE) and 45°S (S).</li> <li>• The South Tasman Front is an area of rapid change in physical and chemical oceanography, frontal density, and primary productivity (<a href="http://www.oregonstate.edu/oceanproductivity">www.oregonstate.edu/oceanproductivity</a>). The highest bird densities in the SPREP area occur in this region and it contains foraging areas for both breeding and non-breeding seabirds (Global Procellariiform Tracking Database). Two seamounts in the northwest are categorized</li> </ul>	M	H	H	H	H	M	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49 above						
as high risk (Clark and Tittensor 2010), indicating the likely presence of cold water coral communities that have not been impacted by deep water trawling.							
<p><b>16. Equatorial High Productivity Zone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: latitudes of approximately 5°N to 5°S of the equator, and longitudes of approximately 120°W (the limit of workshop geographic scope) to approximately 165°E.</li> <li>• The Central Pacific high productivity zone EBSA is a large scale oceanographic feature, comprising the western extent of flow from the Pacific south equatorial current. This westerly flowing cool upwelling tongue of water brings high nutrients to the surface waters of the central Pacific Ocean supporting high primary production over a large area. There is strong benthic-pelagic coupling, with benthic secondary production in the 4000-5000m abyssal plains being strongly related to the surface primary productivity. Historically, high sperm whale abundance was recorded in this area. This large scale oceanographic feature is highly influenced by El Nino events and is potentially susceptible to climate change.</li> </ul>	H	L	L	-	H	L	L
<p><b>17. Central Louisville Seamount Chain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Extends from latitudes 31° S to 40° S and longitudes 172°30' W to 167°00' W.</li> <li>• The Louisville Seamount Chain extends 4000km into the western South Pacific east of New Zealand. It is a unique set of oceanic seamounts in this region, with no other features rising to upper bathyal depths between the New Zealand Plateau and the East Pacific Rise. The seamounts host a variety of deepwater fish species, and are spawning grounds for orange roughy. The area has been extensively fished (mainly for orange roughy), but this site has been chosen to include a range of seamount and guyot features which cover a wide variety of topographic characteristics and depths (and hence different habitats and faunal communities), some or parts of which have not been fished. Species records from bycatch in fisheries include cold-water corals, sponges, and deep-sea echinoderms which are frequently found on seamounts around New Zealand. The seamounts are likely to have productive and diverse benthic invertebrate communities, and be important for orange roughy and other fish populations.</li> </ul>	H	H	M	M	M	H	M
<p><b>18. Western South Pacific high aragonite saturation State zone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Zone from approximately 12 – 16 ° S, from 174 - 156 ° W</li> <li>• An area of the western south Pacific, located in the South Equatorial Current currently has aragonite saturation rates that are the highest in the present day and are projected to be last to drop below the key thresholds of 3 and 3.5. Therefore, this area has special biological and ecological value as an area where the impact from ocean acidification will be slowest and from which recovery may potentially be the quickest.</li> </ul>	H	M	-	-	-	-	-

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49 above						
<p><b>19. Clipperton Fracture Zone Petrel Foraging Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Bounded by 12.9°N, 137.9°W and 0.2°N and 130.6°W at its North-Western and South-Eastern limits.</li> <li>It encompasses key non-breeding foraging areas for Pycroft's Petrel, a threatened seabird that breeds in northern New Zealand. The area is equatorial and lies on and to the north of the Pacific Equatorial Upwelling zone. This is an area of strong equatorial current and parallel countercurrents which cause ocean mixing and high levels of primary productivity.</li> </ul>	M	H	H	M	M	L	M
<p><b>20. Northern Lord Howe Ridge Petrel Foraging Area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Bounded by 22.7°S, 160°W and 31.9°S and 165.9°W at its North-Western and South-Eastern limits.</li> <li>The site qualifies as an Important Bird Area under BirdLife criteria and has primarily been identified as the core foraging area for the endemic New Caledonian subspecies of Gould's Petrel <i>Pterodroma leucoptera caledonica</i> (representing 50-65% of the global population). As well as being important as a foraging area, the site has been shown to be used in transit by birds moving to foraging grounds further to the south.</li> </ul>	M	H	M	M	-	L	-
<p><b>21. Northern New Zealand/South Fiji Basin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Extends from the South Fiji basin to the north of New Zealand and west of the Kermadec Ridge centered on 31°S, 176°E.</li> <li>It encompasses key foraging areas utilized by breeding Parkinson's Petrel, a threatened seabird that breeds on Great Barrier and Little Barrier islands in northern New Zealand.</li> </ul>	M	H	H	H	L	L	-
<p><b>22. Taveuni and Ringgold Islands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: North-east Fiji Islands encompassing Taveuni and the Ringgold Islands centered on 16°S, 179°W.</li> <li>This site created on the waters surrounding the north-east Fiji Islands supports a diverse array of communities and habitats within a compact area. It supports globally and regionally significant populations of marine turtles, Humpback Whales, seabirds, semi-nomadic reef fish and is projected to hold concentrations of cold-water corals. The area represents key foraging areas surrounding Fiji's most significant nesting sites for Hawksbill and Green Turtles, and the last remaining nesting site in Fiji for the latter. It also encompasses four marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) that identify foraging areas based upon seaward extensions around nesting colonies.</li> </ul>	L	H	H	M	M	M	M
<p><b>23. Manihiki Plateau</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Approximately 155 W, 18 S.</li> </ul>	M	L	-	L	M	L	M

Location and brief description of areas	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49 above						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Manihiki Plateau is an oceanic plateau in the southwest Pacific Ocean. The Manihiki Plateau was formed by volcanic activity 125 to 120 million years ago during the mid-Cretaceous period at a triple junction plate boundary called the Tongareva triple junction. Surveys over a long period, aimed at identifying important deposits of sea bed minerals, have noted that there are sediment eating organisms present, but these have not been identified.</li> </ul>							
<p><b>24. Niue Island and Beveridge Reef</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Around Niue, 19°S, 169.50°W, extending South East for 125 nm to encompass Beveridge Reef.</li> <li>The isolated island of Niue is the world’s largest single coral island, and is not part of any archipelago. The waters around Niue have been identified as a part of an important migratory route for endangered humpback whales. A number of other endangered marine mammals have been sighted in Niue’s waters. The endemic black banded sea krake is also reported to be found from near shore areas out to approximately 100 km from Niue fringing reef. Beveridge reef is an isolated patch reef rising sharply from the sea floor, and is included in the EBSA as it is likely to contain some endemic species due to this isolation.</li> </ul>	H	-	M	-	L	-	M
<p><b>25. Palau Southwest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Deep ocean area southwest of the main Palauan archipelago.</li> <li>This area contains a number of notable characteristics with regards to offshore oceanic environments. Within the region, this convergence of clustered sea mounts, high-energy eddies, and various deepwater benthic communities suggest a potential counterpoint for interactions between deep-sea, pelagic marine and oceanic-going avian species.</li> </ul>	M	M	M	-	-	M	L
<p><b>26. Tonga Archipelago</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Between 15°S and 23° 30’ S, and 173° to 177° W.</li> <li>The waters surrounding the islands of the Tongan Archipelago contain unique geomorphic features, notably the Tonga Trench. It is the most important breeding location for the endangered Oceania population of humpback whales and supports globally-significant populations of eight seabird species.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	M	M	M

Table 2. Description of areas meeting EBSAs Criteria in Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic region

(Details are described in Appendix to Annex 4 of the report of the Regional Workshop on EBSAs, in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/7)

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49						
<p><b>1. Mesoamerican Barrier Reef</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: The Mesoamerican Reef region is comprised of over 1000 km long of continuous barrier reef considered to be the second largest in the western Hemisphere. It runs parallel to the coast, starting in the northernmost Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, through Belize and Guatemala all the way up to the Bay Islands in Honduras.</li> <li>The reef supports the second longest barrier reef in the world, a diverse array of fauna and flora, numerous rich nursery/feeding grounds and oceanic waters important for larval transport and dispersion. The rich resources in the region have important ecological, aesthetic, and cultural value to its inhabitants. Productive fishing grounds support valuable commercial and artisanal fisheries. Millions of tourists, attracted to the sandy beaches and teeming reefs, provide important economic revenue to the people and their governments.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
<p><b>2. Miskito Cays</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: 14°25'42.14"N, 82°47'6.72" W</li> <li>This area, part of the Nicaraguan National System of Protected Areas, has been recognized by RAMSAR and is identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International. It covers 512 ha and includes the Miskito Cays and other land formations. It contains seagrass beds (<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>) that provide food for sea turtles and afford protection to various species of fish in the larva and juvenile stages. It is estimated that at least 300 species of fish live here (annex 2), including dogfish sharks and rays in the waters of the autonomous regions (Herrera, 1984; PAANIC, 1993). In addition, some 120 fish species have been found to inhabit the coral reefs. Less than 5 per cent of these species are currently being exploited. These include snappers (Lutjanidae), sea basses (Serranidae), robalos (Centropomidae) and sharks (Carcharhinidae).</li> </ul>	M	M	M	M	M	H	H
<p><b>3. Corn Island</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: 12° 6'37.61"N, 82°20'28.77"W</li> </ul> <p>There is general information on the biology of approximately 300 species of fish living in the shallow waters off the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua (INPESCA 2004, Ryan 2003); information on deep-water fish</p>	M	M	L	M	M	M	M

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
For key to criteria, see page 49							
<p>found along the continental shelf slope has recently been compiled (Pasenic-INPESCA 2008), including species of snapper (Lutjanidae) and sea bass; they contribute to the second-largest group of deep-water fish captured. All these species are found throughout the Caribbean. They are related to a specific substratum of deep-water (habitat), and each species apparently has a close relationship with its habitat, unlike the types of fish that swim constantly, such as pelagic fish.</p>							
<p><b>4. Tortuguero – Barra del Colorado</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Extends north from Tortuguero National park to Barra del Colorado in the border with Nicaragua.</li> <li>• The Tortuguero-Barra del Colorado area has been broadly studied for more than five decades (since 1955) due to its significance for the natural history of marine turtles, especially green turtles (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>). Tortuguero beach is known as the largest remaining green turtle rookery in the Atlantic (Troeng 2005). The area is also used by leatherbacks (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>) and in rare occasions by hawksbills (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>). The Tortuguero-Barra del Colorado area also includes coastal lagoons, marine bird nesting and feeding areas, manatee concentration areas and sea turtle aggregation and nesting areas.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
<p><b>5. Cahuita – Gandoca</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: Extends south from Cahuita National Park to the mouth of the Sixaola River in the border with Panama.</li> <li>• The areas of Cahuita and Gandoca-Manzanillo contain important patches of seagrasses (<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>) as well as the most important coral reef areas in the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Cahuita is the site with the highest reef-building diversity in Costa Rica (31 species) as well as a high diversity of octocorals (19 species). In Gandoca, the most important mangrove area of the Costa Rican Caribbean is found, associated to a coastal lagoon. Gandoca also presents leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>) and hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) sea turtle nesting areas. Finally, the proposed area also presents aggregation areas for the spiny lobster, conch, tucuxi dolphins, manatees and marine bird feeding areas.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
<p><b>6. Pedro Bank, Southern Channel and Morant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: The identified area is located in oceanic waters south east to south west of Jamaica and encompasses from Jamaica the Pedro Bank and Cays (16° 43' N and 17 35 N and 77° 20' and 79° 02' W); the Morant Cays and deep channels around; from Honduras and Nicaragua the Rosalind Bank (16°26'N 80°31'W 16.433°N 80.517°W. It), and from Colombia and Jamaica; the Serranilla Bank (15° 41' - 16°04'N and 80°03' - 79° 40'W), Alice Bank (15° 57' - 16° 10'N and 79° 28' - 79° 16'W) and New Bank (15° 47' - 15° 56'N and 78° 49' - 78° 31'W).</li> </ul>	H	H	M	M	M	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed area contains remote atolls with their associated banks and deep sea areas. They appear to share common oceanic dynamics which demonstrate relatively high biological diversity and productivity developed within an array of complex structured benthic habitats and complex bathymetry. At present, the entire area provides substantial queen conch, spiny lobster and reef fish fisheries which are threatened by the lack of regional considerations for its sustainable use.</li> </ul>							
<p><b>8. Caracol/Ft. Liberté/Monte Cristi (Northern Hispaniola Binational Area)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Northeastern Haiti</li> <li>Characterized by fringing/barrier reef, mangrove forests, and seagrass beds</li> </ul>	L	M	M	H	M	L	L
<p><b>9. Marine Mammal Sanctuary Banco de la Plata y Banco de la Navidad</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Located about 80 nautical miles off the northern coast of the Dominican Republic, extends from the western boundary of the Silver Bank of Bank of Christmas to the Bay of Samana from Punta Balandra and Miches.</li> <li>This area represents unique environment for the reproduction of North Atlantic humpbacks whales. Humpback whales (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>) come from the high latitudes of the North Atlantic, to the waters of the Dominican Republic to reproduction activities between December and April each year. Of all the whales that make this migration, 85% of these whales visit the areas off short banks of the Banco de la Plata and Banco de la Navidad and Samana Bay.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	L	H	L
<p><b>10. Seaflower</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Seaflower is an open-ocean area surrounding the inhabited islands and including the coastal and oceanic coral reefs of the San Andres Archipelago, which is a Colombian administrative department in the south-western Caribbean. This area contains the largest, most productive open-ocean coral reefs in the Caribbean; provides rare, unique and unusual reef environments; contains remote areas demonstrating high integrity and little anthropogenic influence; and displays a continuum of habitats that support significant levels of marine biodiversity. With the presence of 192 Red-Listed species, it is an important site for the conservation of endangered and threatened species of global concern.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	-	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49						
<p><b>11. Saba Bank</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: 17o25' N, 63030' W</li> <li>• The Saba Bank is a unique and highly significant area. Biophysically it is a submerged atoll, the largest actively growing atoll in the Caribbean, and one of the largest atolls in the world, measuring 1,850 km<sup>2</sup> (above 50m depth contour). The area is significant in terms of its unique ecological, socio-economic, scientific and cultural characteristics, with extensive coral reefs, fishing grounds and algal beds.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
<p><b>12. Eastern Caribbean</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: The islands arc from Anguilla located at 18°12.80N and 63°03.00W and curve around to Tobago located at 10° 2' to 11° 12' N and 60° 30' to 61° 56' W.</li> <li>• The region harbours a variety of rich ecosystems associated with small islands masses, many being volcanic and some being limestone in origin. The region supports many productive ecosystems, such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove swamps. It is also home to unusual features such as a major underwater volcano, Kick Em Jelly (Grenada), and hydrothermal vents and seamounts. The region harbours significant larval stocks, which potentially serve as a source for commercially important species such as the Caribbean Spiny lobster and Queen Conch. The area also provides essential conditions for the survival of several migratory species such as turtles, fishes and sea birds.</li> </ul>	M	M	H	H	L	H	M
<p><b>13. The Sargasso Sea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: The Sargasso Sea is surrounded by the Gulf Stream to the west, the North Atlantic Drift to the north, the more diffuse Canary Current to the east, and the North Equatorial Current and the Antilles Current to the south, extending between 22o – 38oN and 76o – 43oW, centred on 30oN and 60oW.</li> <li>• The Sargasso Sea is home to an iconic pelagic ecosystem with the floating <i>Sargassum</i> seaweeds, the world's only holopelagic algae, as its cornerstone. It hosts a diverse community of associated organisms that includes ten endemic species, and provides essential habitat for key life stages of a wide diversity of species, many of which are endangered or threatened. The Sargasso Sea is the only breeding location for European and American eels, the former being listed as critically endangered, and is on the migration route of numerous other iconic and endangered species. A variety of oceanographic processes impact productivity and species diversity, and the area plays a disproportionately large role in global ocean processes of oxygen production and carbon sequestration. The sea floor has two large seamount chains, home to specialized, fragile and endemic communities, and models predict the presence of numerous other isolated seamounts.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
<p><b>14. Sinu Continental Margin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: The Sinu Continental Margin region includes sites that extend from latitude 9 12'14"N to 10</li> </ul>	H	-	-	H	M	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49						
<p>4'38"N and between longitudes 76 34'30"W and 76 6'59"W.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sinu Continental Margin region is found in the southern Caribbean off the Colombian coast at a depth of 180 to 1000 m; it is characterized by the presence of geological formations that are typical of water flow systems, such as canals, canyons and continental aprons, and structural forms such as ridges, slopes, domes and troughs, which are associated with a high level of biodiversity. Deep-water corals are also present, especially <i>Madracis myriaster</i>, whose significance is growing from an ecological point of view. The presence of oxidizing methane at cold seeps is also becoming more environmentally important. The natural status of these sites makes them ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the southern Caribbean region, although the possibility of future hydrocarbon exploration makes this region vulnerable.</li> </ul>							
<p><b>15. Oceanic bottoms of Magdalena and Tayrona</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: The Oceanic bottoms of Magdalena and Tayrona include sites that extend from latitude 11 3'34"N to 11 55'40"N and between longitudes 75 33'3"W and 74 2'28"W.</li> </ul> <p>The Oceanic bottoms of Magdalena and Tayrona region is located in the central sector of the Caribbean coast of Colombia at a depth of 200 to 3000 m. It is characterized by the presence of canyons and seamounts associated with high biodiversity. It also has deep-water corals, especially <i>Madracis myriaster</i>, which are becoming increasingly important in environmental terms. The natural status of these sites makes them ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs) in the southern Caribbean region.</p>	H	-	-	H	-	H	H
<p><b>16. Amazonian-Orinoco Influence Zone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: N 14.517, E: -45.144, S: -0.565, W: -60.981 (The proposed area encompasses the productivity flow from Northern Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana and Eastern Trinidad.)</li> <li>The Orinoco River drains an area of 1.1 x 10<sup>6</sup> km<sup>2</sup> within Venezuela (70%) and Colombia (30%) (Lewis 1988). Together with the Amazon, these two major rivers play an extremely important role in transporting dissolved and particulate material from terrestrial areas to the coasts and open ocean. Their impact is evidenced by the overall extremely high productivity associated with the marine area extending from northern Brazil, to French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, all the way to Trinidad and Tobago. Associated with this high productivity are high levels of biodiversity inclusive of endangered, threatened and endemic species of turtles, mammals, invertebrates, fishes and birds.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
<p><b>17. Parcel do Manuel Luiz e Banco do Álvaro</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Covers two main areas including Parcel do Manuel Luiz (69 km<sup>2</sup> centered on 00°50'S, 044°15'W) and Banco do Álvaro (30 km<sup>2</sup> centered on 00° 17.5'S, 044° 49.5'W)</li> </ul>	M	M	H	H	-	H	H

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel do Manuel Luiz is the most northern coral communities known in Brazil. In some areas milleporids predominate on the reef walls, followed by the octocoral <i>Phyllogorgia dilatata</i> (endemic to Brazil). There are records of 50% of the Brazilian hard corals species in the area, six of which were not previously reported in the Northeastern adjacent coast. The fire coral <i>Millepora laboreli</i> is endemic to the area and has been recently included as EN in the Brazilian List of Endangered Species. The presence and great abundance of Caribbean reef organisms, which do not occur along the eastern coast of South America, provide additional evidence that these reefs may be one of the main faunal stepping stones between the Caribbean and the Brazilian coast. The region represents an important area of feeding and reproduction of elasmobranchs.</li> </ul>							
<p><b>18. Banks chain of northern Brazil and Fernando de Noronha</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: Covers the North Brazilian Chain (1 ° S to 4 ° S / 37 ° W to 39 W) and Fernando de Noronha Chain (3 ° to 5 ° S / 32 ° to 38 ° W).</li> <li>The North Brazil Current interacts with the submarine topography generating upwellings that promote productivity. Chains are inserted in oligotrophic environment and Fernando de Noronha and Rocas Atoll are seen as a “hotspot” due to the presence of coral reef formations, high biodiversity and endemism. The area is a spawning site and / or feeding site for turtles, elasmobranchs, reef fish and pelagic fish. The area is a feeding site for breeding seabirds at Fernando de Noronha and covers part of the most important seabird migration corridor in the Atlantic, both sites which qualify as BirdLife Important Bird Area (IBA) for both threatened species and congregations. Some birds, elasmobranchs and turtles species listed in the IUCN red list as threatened occur in the area. Sharks, reef fishes and lobsters are target for fisheries carried out in the region. Fishing exploitation is a traditional activity in the area. Sea turtles are also subject to incidental catch by pelagic longline and ghost nets. The Rocas Atoll has the highest rate of endemism in the region and Fernando de Noronha has the highest species richness when compared to other Brazilian oceanic islands. Fernando de Noronha and Rocas Atoll fauna display great similarity which is attributed to the presence of shallow oceanic banks that function as steps tones in the area. Larvae of coastal species suggest connectivity with the continental slope area.</li> </ul>	H	H	H	M	M	H	H
<p><b>19. Northeastern Brazil Shelf-Edge Zone</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location: The northeastern shelf-edge zone extends along the Brazilian outer shelf and upper slope, from depths of 40m to 2000m and between parallels 3°S to 16°S, from south Bahia up to the Ceará states, where the Brazilian continental shelf is narrow and breaks abruptly at depths between 50 to 80m.</li> <li>The continental shelf-edge zone is a marine ecotone where different components of the demersal, benthic and benthopelagic communities of the continental shelf, upper slope and adjacent pelagic biota coexist in a narrow strip along the continental margin. Biogenic reef formations associated to outer shelf</li> </ul>	M	H	H	H	L	H	M

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49						
<p>channels, ravines and deeper canyons represent important traditional fishing grounds. The northeastern Brazilian shelf-edge zone contains distinct habitats and unusual geomorphological features such as shelf-edge reefs that represent a last refuge for some rare or endemic reef fishes distributed across the continental margin, including threatened (IUCN) commercial species of the snapper-grouper complex, currently depleted at the Brazilian EEZ jurisdiction. The shelf-edge harbour critical habitats for the life cycle of many sea turtles, whales, sharks and reef fish species, including migratory corridors and fish spawning aggregation sites. The area covers part of the most important seabird migration corridor in the Atlantic, a site which qualifies as a Birdlife Important Bird Area (IBA) for both threatened species and congregations. This region corresponds to a portion of the breeding ground of humpback whales (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>) off the northeastern coast of Brazil.</p>							
<p><b>20. Atlantic Equatorial Fracture Zone and high productivity system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: The proposed area extends approximately 1.9 m km<sup>2</sup> across the Equatorial Atlantic Ocean from the western border of the Guinea Basin (10°W) in the east to the northeast limit of Brazilian continental margin (32°W) in the west.</li> <li>• The proposed area combines both benthic and pelagic habitats of the Equatorial Atlantic, as defined by the seafloor topography, surface and deepwater circulation patterns and the equatorial primary productivity regimes. It can also be characterized by particular pelagic and benthic biodiversity patterns.</li> </ul>	H	H	M	M	H	H	M
<p><b>21. Abrolhos Bank and Vitória-Trindade Chain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location: The Abrolhos Region is an enlargement of the Brazilian continental shelf located in the eastern shore of Brazil, in the southern of Bahia and northern of Espírito Santo States.</li> <li>• Abrolhos Bank harbours the highest marine biodiversity in the South Atlantic, the largest coral reefs in Brazil, and relatively large populations of several endemic and endangered marine species. It presents a mosaic of different habitats, like mangroves, seagrasses meadows, rhodolith beds, submerged and emergent reefs, and a group of small volcanic islands. Abrolhos also has unique biological formations, such as the large mushroom shaped reef formations – “chapeirões”, and unique geological formations, such as the “buracas” – distinctive depressions in the shelf plain (up to 20 meters deep and 70 meters large). The region is an important breeding and/or fishing site for several flagship species such as humpback whales, sea turtles and sea birds.</li> <li>• The Vitória Trindade Chain, located on the central coast of Brazil, is composed of seven seamounts and an island complex (Archipelago of Trinidad and Martin Vaz). The substrate of the mountains and ocean islands is composed of living reefs of coralline algae, on which is also observed the presence of different species of corals, sponges and algae. The mountains and islands have a fauna of reef fish that is still preserved, with a significant biomass and abundance of species, harbouring many sharks and spawning</li> </ul>	H	H	H	H	M	H	M

Location of Areas and Brief Description	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
	For key to criteria, see page 49						
aggregation phenomena of important fishery resources. Moreover, the reef fish fauna includes at least 11 endemic species. Also, this area is the only breeding site for three endemic populations of seabirds, the Trindade petrel ( <i>Pterodroma arminjoniana</i> ), the Atlantic lesser frigatebird ( <i>Fregata minor nicolli</i> ), and the Atlantic greater frigatebird ( <i>Fregata ariel trinitatis</i> ).							

Note: There is no area number 7.

**Table 3. Description of areas that could meet EBSA Criteria in the Mediterranean region***(Each area is described by some polygons presented in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/8)*

Explanation of scores: how important is the polygon for the criterion?

4 = completely; 3 = a lot; 2 = somewhat; 1 = a little; 0 = not at all

Name of the area	n.	name of polygon	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	Notes
Alboran Sea	1	Djibouti Seamount	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
	2	Alborán Crest	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
	3	Motril Seamount	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
	4	Seco de los Olivos Seamount	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	
	5	E Malaga coast	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	not ABNJ: Important foraging ground for seabirds within the Alborán context.
	6	Bay of Almeria	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	not ABNJ: important breeding colonies of gulls and terns that use the adjacent sea to forage
	7	Alborán island	3	3	3	3	2	2	4	holds one of the most important colonies of Audouin's gull in the world
	8	Chafarinas Islands	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	not ABNJ: holds the second most important colony of Audouin's gull at global level
	9	Al-Mansour Seamount								
	10	Torroxo Seamount								
	11	Gibraltar Strait	4	3	3	2	3	4	1	Unique location is key for long-term survival of seabird populations that move between Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
	12	Alborán Sea	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	Area of high (primary) productivity: acts as feeding area for locally-breeding bird populations, as winter area and most importantly for migration/passage
	13	Seco de los Olivos Seamount	3	3	4	4	3	4	2	presence of black corals, red coral, sponges, gorgonian gardens, coralligenous, maerl, marine turtles, cetaceans and commercial species.
	14	Alborán and Algerian	0	2	3	1	2	1	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
	15	Polygon 4		3						<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> nursery area
	16	Alborán Sea	2	4	4	3	4	3	1	Common dolphin, striped dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, Cuvier's beaked whale, pilot whale
89	SW Alborán	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)	
Balearic Islands area	17	Aguilas Seamount								
	18	Emile Baudot Seamount								
	21	Balearic Sea	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	Bluefin tuna spawning ground, sperm whale habitat
	23	Ebro River system	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	Key area for feeding of globally-threatened and other seabird species of conservation concern that concentrate for breeding in Ebro Delta (gulls, terns) and in Balearic Is (shearwaters)
	25	Palos Seamount	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	corals, gorgonian gardens, sponges, marine turtles, cetaceans, elasmobranchs and

										commercial species.	
	26	Emile Baudot Seamount	3	3	4	3	2	4	3	coralligenous, maërl, gorgonian gardens, corals (included some black corals), bryozoans, marine turtles, cetaceans and commercial species.	
	27	Menorca Canyon	3	3	3	3	4	4	2	gorgonian gardens, corals, sponges, coralligenous, maërl, sharks and commercial species.	
	30	Spanish shelf + Balearic	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	loggerhead turtle habitat	
	90	Balearic Sea								important habitat for sperm whales	
Gulf of Lions area	19	Palamos Canyon									
	20	Cap de Creus Canyon	4	3	4	4	2	4	3	<i>Lophelia</i> , <i>Madrepora</i> , 218 m, ROV, submersible (Orejas et al. 2008)	
	22	Gulf of Lion	3	3	3			4		High primary productivity of pelagic waters	
	24	Gulf of Lion - Hyères Islands	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	High-productivity area; important for feeding of globally-threatened and other seabird species of conservation concern: Procellariiforms from Hyères, Corsica & Balearics, gulls & terns from Camargue, wintering seabirds from Atlantic	
	28	Gulf of Lion - fin whale habitat	3	4	1	2	4	4	0		
	29	Gulf of Lion - striped dolphin habitat	2	2	1	2	2	4	0		
	73	Gulf of Lion canyons									Lacaze-Duthiers Canyon, <i>Madrepora</i> , at 300 m, submersible, dredges (Zibrowius 2003), Cassidaigne Canyon, <i>Madrepora</i> , 210-510 m, submersible (Bourcier & Zibrowius 1973)
	81	Catalan coast	1	3	0	0	3	2	0		important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
Tyrrhenian Sea	31	Polygon 5		3						<i>Galeus melastomus</i> nursery area	
	32	N Tyrrhenian	2	1				2		High primary productivity of pelagic waters	
	33	Corsica - Sardinia - Tuscan Is.	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	Important area for feeding of endemic and other seabird species of conservation concern that concentrate for breeding in Corsica-Sardinia-Tuscan archipelagos	
	36	Polygon 10		3	3	3	3	3		<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> , <i>Raja clavata</i> , <i>R. asterias</i> , <i>Carcharinus brachyurus</i> , <i>Galeus melastomus</i> , <i>Etmopterus spinax</i> nursery area	
	37	Polygon 11		3						<i>Squatina oculata</i> probable nursery area	
	38	Polygon 5 bis		3						<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> nursery area	
Tunisian Plateau	40	Bluefin tuna breeding area	3	4	4	4	1	3	3		
	41	Tunisia Plateau area 1		2	3				3	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> nursery area	
	42	Tunisia Plateau area 2		2	3				3	Several batoids and white shark nursery, loggerhead turtle feeding and wintering area, Maerl beds	
	43	Strait of Sicily	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	High-productivity area: important for feeding of Procellariiforms nesting in Tunisia (Zembra is), Sicily (Egadi is) and Pantelleria	
	44	Malta - Outer Gabés	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	New data from BirdLife Malta LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project show importance of the extensive area SE of Malta for feeding of this Mediterranean endemic species.	

	45	Tunisian - Inner Gabés	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	loggerhead turtle habitat
	46	Strait of Sicily, Ionian	0	2	3	1	2	1	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
	47	Polygon 8		3						<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> probable nursery area
	48	Polygon 9		3				3		<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> probable nursery area
	49	Waters around Lampedusa	2	4	3	3	4	2	2	Fin whale winter feeding grounds
	50	Waters around Malta	1	4	3	3	2	1	2	Common dolphin
	74	<i>Lophelia, Madrepora</i> in Strait of Sicily								Urania Bank, <i>Lophelia, Madrepora</i> , 509-613 m, ROV (this study), Linosa Trough, <i>Lophelia, Madrepora</i> , 669-679 m, ROV (this study), off Malta, <i>Lophelia, Madrepora</i> , 453-612 m, ROV (this study), off Malta, <i>Lophelia, Madrepora</i> , 392-617 m, demersal trawl (Schembri et al. 2007)
	87	Inner Tunisian Plateau, N part		2						
	88	SW Sicily	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
Adriatic Sea	51	Northern and central Adriatic	0	3	3	3	3	3	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
	52	Polygon 1		2	2	2				<i>Squalus acanthias</i> nursery area
	53	Polygon 2		3						<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i> nursery area
	82	Central western Adriatic	1	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
Ionian Sea	54	Ionian	0	2	3	1	2	1	2	loggerhead turtle habitat
	55	Polygon 6		3						<i>Raja clavata</i> nursery area
	56	Eastern Ionian Sea	1	4	4	3	3	2	2	Common dolphins, bottlenose dolphins, Cuvier's beaked whales, fin whales, sperm whales
	75	<i>Lophelia</i> and <i>Madrepora</i> in Gulf of Taranto								Santa Maria di Leuca, <i>Lophelia, Madrepora</i> , 300-1100 m, dredges, ROV (Taviani et al. 2005a, this study), off Gallipoli, <i>Lophelia, Madrepora</i> , 603-744 m, ROV (this study)
	78	<i>Lophelia</i> reefs								
Aegean Sea	59	Northern Aegean Sea	2	4	4	3	3	2	2	Common dolphin, harbour porpoise, monk seal, beaked whale
	77	<i>Lophelia</i> and <i>Madrepora</i> reefs off Thasos								off Thasos, <i>Lophelia, Madrepora</i> , 300-350 m, dredging (Vafidis et al. 1997)
	83	N West Aegean	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)
	84	N Aegean	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	important suitable habitat for small pelagics (sardines and/or anchovies)

Levantine Sea	57	Hellenic Trench	2	4	4	3	4	3	2	Sperm whales, Cuvier's beaked whales
	61	Bluefin tuna breeding area	3	4	4	4	1	3	3	
	62	Bluefin tuna breeding area	3	4	3	1	0	0	0	Importance: One of the 3 spawning grounds of Blue Fin Tuna ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )
	63	Monk seal 1	4	4	4	2	0	0	2	not ABNJ. Importance: The largest and the only viable monk seal colony along the Turkish coast
	64	Monk seal 2	4	3	3	4	2	2	3	not ABNJ. Importance: Very pristine area, intact <i>Cystoseira</i> and <i>Posidonia</i> meadows; important (breeding) habitat for seal, breeding site for Audouin's Gull ( <i>Larus audouini</i> ).
	66	Rhodes Gyre	4	3	2	1	4	2	0	Very significant oceanographic feature driven by strong upwelling. Biological importance is not well known however we have sampled significant amount of egg and larvae ( <i>Clupeid</i> and <i>Swordfish</i> ) on the periphery of the upwelling region. The region is rich in <i>Cephalopods</i> . Therefore the region may also be important for <i>Cetaceans</i> . (the largest number of whale stranding from Turkish fishermen are reported there).
	67	Rhodes Gyre	3	2			4			High primary productivity of pelagic waters
	69	Cyprus - Turkey - Syria	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	loggerhead and green turtle habitat
	70	Polygon 7		3						<i>Rhinobatos rhinobatos</i> nursery area
	71	Off S Turkey, Syria	1	4	4	3	4	2	2	beaked whales, monk seal
	79	Eratosthenes Seamount								
	86	Rhodes Gyre	3							
Nile Delta sea area	68	Egyptian shelf	0	3	3	3	3	3	2	loggerhead and green turtle habitat
	72	Off Nile Delta, S Israel	2	3	3	3	3	2	1	Common dolphin
	80	Cold seeps								

**XVI/5. *Marine and coastal biodiversity: sustainable fisheries and addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity***

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recognizing* that addressing biodiversity consideration in fisheries management, addressing adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, including coral bleaching, ocean acidification and anthropogenic underwater noise, support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 6, 8 and 10<sup>10</sup> and also that other adverse impacts of human activities on marine and coastal biodiversity, including pollution, need to be addressed with a view to achieve these Targets,

***Addressing biodiversity concerns in sustainable fisheries***

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Norway for funding and hosting the Joint Expert Meeting on Addressing Biodiversity Concerns in Sustainable Fisheries, convened by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (IUCN-CEM-FEG), in Bergen, Norway, from 7 to 9 December 2011, and *welcomes* the report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/13);

2. *Recognizing* that fisheries management bodies are competent bodies for managing fisheries and, depending on the situations in different countries and regions, should have roles to play in addressing the impacts on biodiversity, *notes* the need for further improvement and implementation of the ecosystem approach in fisheries management by enhancing the capacity of these fisheries management agencies, constructive interagency collaboration, and full and meaningful participation of a wide range of experts on biodiversity, indigenous and local communities, and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in the fisheries management process;

3. *Encourages* constructive collaboration between biodiversity and fisheries bodies, and *invites* fisheries management bodies at national and regional levels, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to ensure that biodiversity considerations are a part of their work;

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<sup>10</sup> Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit the report of the joint expert meeting, referred to in paragraph 1 above, to Parties, other Governments, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and regional fisheries management bodies, and to collaborate with these bodies with a view to improving how biodiversity concerns are addressed for sustainable fisheries;

***Progress made in the implementation of the specific work plan on coral bleaching***

5. *Welcomes* the report *Progress made in the implementation of the specific work plan on coral bleaching* (appendix 1 to annex I to decision VII/5) that includes information on the barriers to implementation as well as ways to overcome them, including specific actions to mobilize financial resources, as contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/11, and *takes note* of the key messages of the report provided in annex I to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6;

6. *Notes* that progress has been made since the specific work plan was adopted;

7. *Recalling* Aichi Biodiversity Target 10, *expresses its deep concern* that climate change will increase the severity and incidence of coral bleaching and ocean acidification throughout tropical seas in the twenty-first century;

8. *Also expresses its concern* that many recurrent capacity and financial challenges remain, which preclude significant progress in developing countries that still struggle to cope with localized stressors and do not have the capacity or financial resources to fully incorporate climate-change impacts as well as other relevant stressors into coral-reef or coastal-management programmes;

9. *Takes note* of the urgent need to update the specific work plan on coral bleaching, taking into consideration other global impacts on coral reefs caused by climate change, most notably, projected impacts of ocean acidification, but also the effects of tropical storms and rising sea levels, and recognizes that the projected impacts of ocean acidification need to be integrated into management frameworks alongside the interaction with local stressors;

10. *Further notes* that meeting the growing challenge of climate-change impacts on coral reefs will require significant investment to increase the capacity for effective management of future bleaching events and other stressors and to scale up the delivery of resilience assessments in all coral-reef regions, and that identifying a range of viable financial mechanisms to achieve these goals is critical;

11. *Recognizes* the need for managers of coral reef ecosystems to:

- (a) understand the vulnerability of reef systems to multiple stressors;
- (b) plan proactively for climate risks and associated secondary effects, applying ecosystem-based adaptation measures;
- (c) manage coral reefs as socio-ecological systems undergoing change due in many cases to climate change;
- (d) formulate adaptation strategies that aim to enhance the resilience of ecosystems to enable the continued provision of goods and services;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to incorporate issues concerning the impacts of climate change on coral reefs and their implications for coastal management programmes, including, as

appropriate, the elements specified in paragraph 11 above, in regional or subregional capacity-building workshops;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, to develop proposals to update the specific work plan on coral bleaching through an addendum to the work plan that addresses the needs set out in paragraph 11 above, and to submit the draft addendum for consideration at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

***Impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity***

14. *Welcomes* the report *Scientific synthesis on the impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats* (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/12), and *takes note* of the key messages of the report provided in annex II to the document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6;

15. *Takes note* of resolution 10.24 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species at its tenth meeting, which provides guidance on further steps to abate underwater noise pollution, where necessary, for the protection of cetaceans and other migratory species;

16. *Notes* that anthropogenic noise may have both short- and long-term negative consequences for marine animals and other biota in the marine environment, that this issue is predicted to increase in significance, and that uncontrolled increase in anthropogenic noise could add further stress to oceanic biota;

17. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, according to their priorities, to:

- (a) Promote research with a view to further improving our understanding of the issue;
- (b) Promote awareness of the issue with relevant stakeholders both nationally and regionally;
- (c) Take measures, as appropriate, to minimize the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine biodiversity, including best available technologies (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP), drawing upon existing guidance; and
- (d) Develop indicators and explore frameworks for the monitoring of underwater noise for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, and report the progress to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

18. *Noting* the need for a consistent terminology to describe underwater noise, *requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, to prepare, subject to availability of financial resources, a draft set of consistent terminology for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

19. *Noting* the gaps and limitations in existing guidance, including the need to update it in the light of improving scientific knowledge, and recognizing a range of complementary initiatives under way, *requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties, other Governments, and competent organizations, including the International Maritime Organization, the Convention on Migratory Species, the International Whaling Commission, as well as indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders, to organize, subject to availability of financial resources, an expert workshop with a view to improving and sharing knowledge on underwater noise and its impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity, and developing practical guidance and toolkits for minimizing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, which can assist

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Parties and other Governments in applying necessary management measures. The workshop should cover issues such as, the development of acoustic mapping of areas of interest, among others;

20. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to bring this decision to the attention of the organizations referred to in paragraph 19 above;

***Progress made in the joint expert review process to monitor and assess the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity***

*Recalling* paragraphs 63–67 of decision X/29,

21. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Spain for funding the Expert Meeting to Develop a Series of Joint Expert Review Processes to Monitor and Assess the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, convened by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC/UNESCO), in Montreal, from 19 to 20 October 2011, and *welcomes* the report of the expert meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/14);

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with IOC/UNESCO, relevant scientific groups, other relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, on the preparation of a systematic review document on the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity and ecosystem functions, which will provide a targeted synthesis of the biodiversity implications of ocean acidification for marine and coastal systems, including information on the less-reported paleo-oceanographic research, building upon the synthesis provided in CBD Technical Series No. 46, and make it available for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to forward it to Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and transmit it to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

23. *Takes note* of the elements in annex III to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6 as guidance for practical responses to the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity, and *encourages* Parties, other Governments and competent organizations to make use of this guidance, as appropriate, to reduce various threats from ocean acidification to vulnerable ecosystems and enhance resilience of ecosystems through various area-based or other management measures, in addition to measures to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;

***Addressing impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity***

24. *Welcomes* the preparation by the GEF-STAP of a report on the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/15) and *takes note* of the key messages contained in annex IV to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6;

25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in collaboration with Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

(a) Invite Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit information on the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats;

(b) Compile and synthesize the submissions by Parties, other Governments and competent organizations as well as additional scientific and technical information as inputs to an expert workshop;

(c) Organize an expert workshop to prepare practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the significant adverse impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats, which

can be applied by Parties and other Governments in their implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity;

(d) Submit the compilation/synthesis, referred to in subparagraph (b) above, and the practical guidance, referred to in subparagraph (c) above, for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to include in regional capacity-building workshops the issue of marine debris in order to discuss ways to prevent and reduce their impacts on biodiversity and strengthen research on the reduction and management of marine debris.

**XVI/6 *Marine biodiversity: marine spatial planning and voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas***

A. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

***Voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas***

*Recalling* decision VIII/28, by which it endorsed voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment,

*Noting* that marine areas, in particular open-ocean and deep-sea areas, have important ecological differences from terrestrial and coastal areas,

[1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the voluntary guidelines<sup>11</sup> for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas, including in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make these voluntary guidelines available as a reference to Parties, other Governments and United Nations specialized agencies, as well as relevant United Nations General Assembly processes, in particular the United Nations Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, as well as regional seas organizations and regional fisheries management organizations and agreements, with regards to fisheries management, as appropriate;

3. *Encourages*, as appropriate, Parties, other Governments and competent organizations, in accordance with national and international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to use the voluntary guidelines, and to adapt and apply them as considered necessary in accordance with their national priorities;

4. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to share, as appropriate, information on their progress in the application of these voluntary guidelines, consider including such information in the fifth and subsequent national reports, and provide suggestions for their further refinement;]

5. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and competent organizations, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to facilitate further research to fill gaps in knowledge, as highlighted in the voluntary guidelines with regards to marine and coastal areas, in particular in areas beyond national jurisdiction;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to provide further assistance to promote capacity-building on the application of the voluntary guidelines, to compile

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<sup>11</sup> The voluntary guidelines will be further refined based on the document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7/Add.1) with the addition of the following phrase in the chapeau: “These voluntary guidelines should be used in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”, and taking into account additional submissions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, in accordance with the request to the Executive Secretary in part B of this recommendation.

information on experience in the application of the voluntary guidelines and report on the progress to a meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

### ***Marine spatial planning***

7. *Acknowledges* the synthesis document on the experience and use of marine spatial planning (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18), and *takes note* of the key messages as set out in section III of document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7);

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of financial resources, to collaborate with Parties, other Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, regional organizations, and other competent organizations, and indigenous and local communities to:

(a) Develop a web-based information-sharing system linking existing information sources<sup>12</sup> on marine spatial planning on the web;

(b) Continue to compile information on experience and use of marine spatial planning practices and make the compiled information available to Parties, other Governments and competent organizations to evaluate its usefulness and implications;

(c) Convene an expert workshop to provide consolidated practical guidance and a toolkit for applying marine spatial planning, building upon existing guidance,<sup>13</sup> subject to availability of financial resources, in order to complement and further enhance the existing cross-sectoral efforts of Parties and other Governments on the application of the ecosystem approach to the implementation of integrated marine and coastal management; the identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs); the design and establishment of conservation and management measures including marine protected areas and other area-based management efforts. The expert workshop should:

(i) Review existing guidance and toolkits on marine spatial planning;

(ii) Identify gaps;

(iii) Develop proposals to fill these gaps; and

(iv) If considered necessary, prepare a consolidated practical guidance and toolkit on marine spatial planning;

(d) Make the guidance and toolkits, as referred to above, available to Parties, other Governments and competent organizations;

(e) Disseminate awareness-raising materials on marine spatial planning to decision makers based on the synthesis document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18) and its key messages as contained in document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7) with a view to facilitating the application of practical guidance and toolkits as referred to above;

(f) Organize training workshops, subject to availability of financial resources, in close linkage to existing capacity-building efforts on marine protected areas<sup>14</sup> and EBSAs,<sup>15</sup> in order to increase

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<sup>12</sup> For example, the IOC/UNESCO webpage on marine spatial planning, ([http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/marine\\_spatial\\_planning\\_msp](http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/marine_spatial_planning_msp)).

<sup>13</sup> For example, the IOC/UNESCO guidelines on marine spatial planning.

<sup>14</sup> For example, the UNDOALOS training manual on marine protected areas.

the capacity of Parties, especially developing country Parties, in their application of marine spatial planning as a tool to enhance existing efforts on integrated marine and coastal area management, identification of EBSAs, design and establishment of conservation and management measures including marine protected areas and other area-based management efforts, and other marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable-use practices.

B. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *requests* Executive Secretary to refine the voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas in light of views submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations by 30 June 2012.

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<sup>15</sup> For example, EBSA training manuals and modules prepared by the Executive Secretary.

**XVI/7. Advice on the application of relevant REDD+<sup>16</sup> safeguards for biodiversity, and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to assess impacts of REDD+ measures on Biodiversity**

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Noting* the potential for synergies in implementing efforts for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+), and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, *urges* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to ensure that they are implemented in a coherent and mutually supportive way;

2. *Noting* that the indicative list of indicators to assess progress towards the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as contained in recommendation XV/1 of the Subsidiary Body, could be useful for assessing the contributions of REDD+ activities for achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Noting* that relevant technical guidance for achieving biodiversity and indigenous and local community benefits in the context of REDD+ activities is available or under development at national, regional and international level;

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to continue and strengthen their efforts to promote the contribution of REDD+ activities towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and provide benefits for biodiversity and to indigenous and local communities, with particular attention to:

(a) Building synergies between national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national REDD+ strategies and action plans; in particular by indicating how REDD+ activities can contribute to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

(b) Further strengthening existing technology transfer and capacity-building processes for the inclusion of relevant indicators in national forest monitoring systems;

[(c) The indicative list of indicators in the annex of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8, as appropriate, to promote biodiversity safeguards.]

[5. *[Approves][Takes note of][Welcomes]* the advice on relevant country-specific biodiversity safeguards for REDD+ contained in annex I,\*\* as guidance focused on national implementation;]

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<sup>16</sup> With reference to relevant decisions and documents of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the term REDD+ refers to 'reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries'.

\*\* Annex I will be based on document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8, revised in accordance with the request to the Executive Secretary in part B of this recommendation.

6. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to consider the information in annex I\* when planning and implementing REDD+ activities and when preparing national reports and other submissions on progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020, and, where applicable, for other relevant submissions under other processes;

7. Noting its relevance to addressing REDD+ safeguards and multiple benefits, *reaffirms* its guidance on ecosystem based approaches to climate change mitigation and on reducing biodiversity impacts of mitigation measures in decision X/33, paragraphs 8 (m)-(q), (s), (u), (v), (y) and (z);

8. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, according to national circumstances and priorities, as well as relevant organizations and processes to reduce the risk of displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and/or higher biodiversity value, and other risks to biodiversity and to indigenous and local communities, including through:

(a) Undertaking comprehensive land-use planning, applying the ecosystem approach and its operational guidance, and utilizing international standards for identifying key biodiversity areas to prioritize their conservation, when planning and undertaking REDD+ activities (decisions V/6 and VII/11);

(b) Promoting broad participation in all phases of REDD+ at the national and, where appropriate, at the subnational levels, including the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities [and other relevant stakeholders];

(c) Ensuring the monitoring of changes in biodiversity across all main terrestrial ecosystems, in the framework of monitoring achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi targets; and promote regional and sub-regional collaboration for monitoring and assessment, with technical and financial support to developing countries;

9. With reference to the safeguards adopted in UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, paragraph 2, *encourages* Parties that are planning and implementing REDD+ activities to develop and apply REDD+ safeguards that ensure that benefits for biodiversity and for indigenous and local communities are achieved, and to share their experiences and lessons learned from national and, where appropriate, subnational implementation;

10. *Noting* that there are ongoing safeguards initiatives related to REDD+, *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations involved in these initiatives to share their experiences and lessons learned, as a contribution to the development and implementation of national, and where appropriate sub-national safeguard frameworks, considering paragraphs 7 and 8 above; and *invites* organizations and countries in a position to do so to provide further support to developing countries in addressing biodiversity concerns and in achieving multiple benefits in REDD+ activities at national and, where appropriate, sub-national level;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile information from Parties on experiences regarding how the potential effects of REDD+ activities for the traditional way of life and related knowledge and customary practices of indigenous and local communities are being addressed, and to submit this information to the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions for its consideration, and *invites* the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions to consider this information when undertaking their broader work, as appropriate;

12. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Enhance collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (including its Global Forest Expert Panel on Biodiversity, Forest Management and REDD+), as well as with the

REDD+ Partnership, to further support Parties' efforts to help ensure that REDD+ contributes to the implementation of the Convention, and that relevant activities under the Convention contribute to the implementation of REDD+, including by offering further capacity-building activities, subject to the availability of funds;

(b) Compile information relevant to the application of REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity, and make it available through the UNFCCC REDD web platform, the clearing-house mechanism, and workshops, prior to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;

(c) Collaborate with relevant organizations involved in the development of REDD+ safeguard initiatives to further integrate biodiversity concerns in the safeguards initiatives and to facilitate relevant capacity-building and implementation activities;

and report on progress of such efforts to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further develop advice on issues included in paragraph 9 (h) of decision X/33, based on further views from Parties and in collaboration with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the [twelfth] [thirteenth] meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

B. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to provide to the Executive Secretary views on the advice on relevant country-specific biodiversity safeguards for REDD+ contained in section II of document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/8, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to provide a revised version of the advice, based on the views received, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

**XVI/8. *Proposals on integrating biodiversity considerations into climate-change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information***

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice*

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including national and international organizations responsible for funding and conducting research activities, to provide technical and financial support, strengthen capacity-building and build knowledge and information on the linkages between biodiversity and climate change, including traditional knowledge, innovations and practices embodying traditional lifestyles, with prior informed consent or approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, by:

(a) Promoting work that considers the outputs from a number of individual models (multi-model combinations), together with ground-truthing, including through field-based observations and experiments, to generate fine-scale projections of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, particularly on the most vulnerable ecosystems and species;

(b) Building knowledge, with comparable datasets, on the potential impacts of climate change and climate change response activities on biodiversity relevant for decision makers responsible for land-use planning and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the specific needs of indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders, from local to regional scales;

(c) Subject to national legislation, respecting, preserving and maintaining the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles related to the linkages between biodiversity and climate change with the prior informed consent or approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge and encouraging the equitable sharing of such benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

(d) Developing and improving regional programmes for bioclimatic modelling and monitoring the impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

(e) Addressing gaps in biodiversity modelling including, *inter alia*, the impacts of invasive alien species and overexploitation in terrestrial, coastal and marine systems; pollution and invasive species in freshwater systems; and land degradation and pollution in coastal and marine systems;

(f) Encouraging research to strengthen knowledge on how the impacts of climate change on biodiversity affect the delivery of ecosystem services;

(g) Identifying data and information needs, availability and gaps in order to determine how to develop or improve the extent to which existing data collection and management systems support decision-making, adaptive management, national planning and reporting on the impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

(h) Liaising with existing data-standard bodies and data-sharing initiatives at the global, regional and national levels to enhance access to and the interoperability of relevant global data sets and promoting the establishment or enhancement of national data collection and management systems;

(i) Investing in higher education and training programmes, including for researchers across different biodiversity disciplines, on monitoring, field study tools and methodologies and bioclimatic modelling;

(j) Investing in the consolidation and strengthening of national institutional capacities to monitor climate change impacts on biodiversity; and

(k) Strengthening or establishing multi-purpose monitoring programmes for climate change impacts on biodiversity, among others, the Biodiversity Observations Network of the Group on Earth Observations, and encouraging the online publication of the resulting data from these monitoring programmes, with the view to maximize the use of limited resources as well as to effectively address information gaps in both spatial and temporal scales;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

*“The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* in particular, decisions VIII/30, IX/16, annex II, and decision X/33,

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body (paragraph 1 of the present recommendation) to strengthen knowledge and information on the linkages between biodiversity and climate change;

2. *Reiterates* the importance of activities to integrate biodiversity into relevant climate change activities and to ensure coherence in national implementation of both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, and indigenous and local communities, when carrying out work on biodiversity and climate change, to consider the proposals to overcome obstacles contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/9;

4. *Welcomes* the collaboration among the secretariats of the Rio conventions, the Global Environment Facility and other organizations in the convening of the Rio Conventions Pavilion at meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Rio conventions and as an event convened at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

[5. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to [explore options for further financing] [further mobilize resources], in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention and Target 20 of the Strategic Plan [and the Rio Principles, including Principle 7], in order to fill biodiversity and ecosystem services data gaps in the context of climate change, and for research studies at larger spatial scales;]

6. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to:

(a) Take into account the importance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to biodiversity when addressing the impacts of climate change in sectoral plans and strategies, especially when considering vulnerable communities;

(b) Strengthen knowledge and information on the linkages between biodiversity, climate change and human well-being in their educational programmes at all levels;

(c) Integrate biodiversity and climate change policies and measures; and

(d) Recognize the role that protected areas and other conservation measures can play in climate-change-related activities;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, including through the Joint Liaison Group and in line with decision X/33, to:

(a) Identify relevant workshops and activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and disseminate such information through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other means with a view to enhancing knowledge sharing on ecosystem based approaches; and

(b) Continue discussions on the relevant activities presented in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/9 for further consideration and implementation as appropriate and based on their financial feasibility, and to explore options to enhance the interoperability of databases managed by the two Secretariats to enhance cooperation on ecosystem based approaches, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to promote educational activities on the synergies among climate change, biodiversity and desertification as well as their links to livelihoods and development through the programme of work on communication, education and public awareness;

9. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, through the clearing-house mechanism and in collaboration with relevant organizations, to build awareness and capacity among organizations and programmes engaging in climate-change modelling and studies of ongoing biodiversity modelling, scenario, and data management initiatives, including DIVERSITAS, the Biodiversity Observations Network of the Group on Earth Observations and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, among others.

**XVI/9. Technical and regulatory matters on geoengineering in relation to the convention on biological diversity**

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note of* the report on the impacts of climate related geoengineering on biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/28), the study on the regulatory framework of climate-related geoengineering relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/29) and the overview of the views and experiences of indigenous and local communities and stakeholders (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/30);

2. *Further takes note of* the main messages presented in the note by the Executive Secretary on technical and regulatory matters on geoengineering in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/10);

**Option 1**

[3. *Emphasizes* that [anthropogenic climate change should be addressed primarily] [the priority is to tackle anthropogenic climate change] through rapid and significant reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions from human activities, together with adaptation to those climate-change impacts that are unavoidable, including through ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation and adaptation;]

**Option 2**

[3. *Emphasizes* that the priority is to tackle anthropogenic climate change through reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions from human activities, together with adaptation to those climate-change impacts that are unavoidable;]

4. *Notes* that climate-related geoengineering may be defined as:

(a) Any technologies that deliberately reduce solar insolation or increase carbon sequestration from the atmosphere on a large scale that may affect biodiversity (excluding carbon capture and storage from fossil fuels when it captures carbon dioxide before it is released into the atmosphere) (decision X/33 of the Conference of the Parties);

(b) Deliberate intervention in the planetary environment of a nature and scale intended to counteract anthropogenic climate change and/or its impacts (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/10);

(c) Deliberate large-scale manipulation of the planetary environment (IPCC 32<sup>nd</sup> session);

(d) Technological efforts to stabilize the climate system by direct intervention in the energy balance of the Earth for reducing global warming (IPCC Fourth Assessment Report<sup>17</sup>).

5. *Notes* the findings contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/28, that there is no single geoengineering approach that currently meets basic criteria for effectiveness, safety and affordability, and that approaches may prove difficult to deploy or govern;

6. *Further notes* that, there remain significant gaps in the understanding of the impacts of climate-related geoengineering on biodiversity, including:

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<sup>17</sup> Noting that this definition includes solar radiation management but does not encompass other geoengineering techniques.

- (a) How biodiversity and ecosystem services are likely to be affected by and respond to geoengineering activities at different geographic scales;
- (b) The intended and unintended effects of different possible geoengineering techniques on biodiversity;
- (c) The socio-economic, cultural and ethical issues associated with possible geoengineering techniques, including the unequal spatial and temporal distribution of impacts.

7. *Recognizes* that the IPCC, as the body whose purpose is to provide comprehensive assessments of the scientific and technical evidence of issues relating to climate change and its impacts, will consider, in its fifth Assessment Report, different geoengineering options, their scientific basis and associated uncertainties, the potential impacts on human and natural systems, risks, research gaps and the suitability of existing governance mechanisms, and *requests* SBSTTA to review the Synthesis Report when it becomes available in September 2014 and report on implications for the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Conference of Parties;

8. *Reaffirms* paragraph 8 (w) of decision X/33 and *invites* Parties to report on measures undertaken in accordance with this paragraph;

9. *Reaffirming* paragraph 8 (x) of decision X/33, *notes* resolution LC-LP.2 (2010) of the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 and its 1996 Protocol, adopting the “Assessment Framework for Scientific Research Involving Ocean Fertilization”;

[10. *Notes* that customary international law, including the obligation to avoid causing significant transboundary harm and the obligation to conduct environmental impact assessments where there is risk of such harm, as well as the application of the precautionary approach, may be relevant for geoengineering activities but would still form an incomplete basis for global regulation;]

11. *Further notes* the potential relevance of work done under the auspices of existing treaties and organizations for the governance of potential geoengineering activities, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the London Convention and its Protocol, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol, and regional conventions, as well as the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization;

### **Option 1**

[12. *Further notes* that the need for a comprehensive science-based, global, transparent and effective mechanism may be most relevant for those geoengineering concepts that have a potential to cause significant adverse transboundary effects, and those deployed in areas beyond national jurisdiction and in the atmosphere;]

### **Option 2**

[12. *Notes* the lack of a comprehensive science-based, global, transparent and effective framework for climate-related geoengineering, and *recognizes* that the need for such a framework is most necessary for those geoengineering concepts that have a potential to cause significant adverse transboundary effects, and those deployed in areas beyond national jurisdiction and the atmosphere;]

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit the reports referred to in paragraph 1 above, to the secretariats of the treaties and organizations referred to in paragraph 11 above as well as the Convention on the Prohibition of Military and Other Hostile Uses of Environment Modification Techniques (ENMOD), the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the Outer Space

Treaty, the Antarctic Treaty System, the United Nations Council on Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Committee on World Food Security for their information;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to:

(a) Compile information reported by Parties referred to in paragraph 8 above, and make it available through the clearing-house mechanism;

(b) Invite the IPCC to include an in-depth consideration of biodiversity when addressing geoengineering in its fifth Assessment Report;

15. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, provide for its peer-review and submit to a future meeting of SBSTTA for its consideration:

(a) An update on the potential impacts of geoengineering techniques on biodiversity, and on the regulatory framework of climate-related geoengineering relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity, drawing upon all relevant reports such as the IPCC's fifth Assessment Report;

(b) An overview of the further views of indigenous and local communities [and other stakeholders] on the potential impacts of geoengineering on biodiversity, and associated social, economic and cultural impacts, taking into account gender considerations, and building on the overview of the views and experiences of indigenous and local communities (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/30).

### ***XVI/10. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation***

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,*

*Having reviewed* the revised technical rationales and proposed indicators, recognizing their provisional nature,

*Having also reviewed* the online toolkit for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/11, annexes I and II),

*Acknowledging* the progress made by Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders in implementing the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020,

1. *Recalling* paragraph 10 (b) of decision X/17, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop, by 2012, an online version of the toolkit for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in all United Nations official languages, *requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, to proceed with the translation of the toolkit into the official languages of the United Nations as a matter of urgency;

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopts at its eleventh meeting a decision along the following lines:

*“The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Acknowledges* the financial contributions in support of the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation from Finland, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and the Rufford Foundation and contributions from other partners, including the members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation;

2. *Recalling* decision X/17, *urges* Parties and invites other Governments, the financial mechanism, and funding organizations to provide adequate, timely, and sustainable support to the implementation of the Strategy, especially for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition and those countries that are centres of genetic diversity;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Missouri Botanical Garden for organizing the International Conference: A Global Partnership for Plant Conservation – Supporting the worldwide implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and for hosting the fourth meeting of the Liaison Group on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;

4. *Taking note* of the links between targets of the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 contained in the report of the fourth meeting of the Liaison Group for the Global Strategy (document UNEP/CBD/LG-GSPC/4/2, annex IV), and the indicative list of indicators contained in the annex to recommendation SBSTTA XV/1, *reiterates* the call in decision X/17 inviting Parties and other Governments to develop or update national and regional targets as appropriate, and, where appropriate, to incorporate them into relevant plans, programmes and initiatives, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to align the further implementation of the Strategy with national and/or regional efforts to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

5. *Takes note* of the technical rationale contained in annex I to the note by the Executive Secretary on progress in implementing decision X/17 prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/11) and *encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments and relevant organizations to:

(a) Make use of the technical rationale, as appropriate and as part of the flexible framework provided through the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, for example by adapting them to guide the development/update and promotion of national plant conservation strategies and their integration in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, sectoral strategies, land-use plans and development plans, taking into account specific national circumstances;

(b) Make available examples of national use and application of the technical rationale for possible inclusion in the toolkit for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;

6. *Agrees* that monitoring the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, including the use of indicators, should be seen in the broader context of, and linked to, the monitoring, review and evaluation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and *notes* in this context:

(a) The relevance of the indicator framework for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;<sup>18</sup>

(b) The analysis, contained in annex II to the note by the Executive Secretary on progress in implementing decision X/17 prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/11), on the applicability to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of indicators contained in recommendation XV/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

7. *Emphasizing* that the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation should be implemented in accordance with the Convention including its Article 15, and, where applicable, with the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>19</sup> *requests* the Executive Secretary to reflect this *inter alia* in the toolkit as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and other relevant organizations, when preparing indicator-based information for Global Biodiversity Outlook-4, to disaggregate information relevant to plant conservation, where possible;

9. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to provide, on a voluntary basis, information about progress towards the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, where feasible and appropriate, to supplement their fifth national report and, in this context, to consider the application, in a flexible manner, of the indicative list of indicators for the Strategic

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<sup>18</sup> The indicator framework for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets has been agreed by the Subsidiary Body in recommendation XV/1.

<sup>19</sup> Decision X/1, annex I.

Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (annex to Recommendation XV/1)<sup>20</sup> to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation contained in annex II to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/11;

10. *Recalling* paragraph 10 (b) of decision X/17, in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop, by 2012, an online version of the toolkit for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in all United Nations official languages:

(a) *Welcomes* the preparation of the English version of the online toolkit for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and *expresses gratitude* to Botanic Gardens Conservation International for coordinating the development of the toolkit by the flexible coordination mechanism for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;

(b) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, to proceed with the translation of the toolkit into the official languages of the United Nations;

(c) *Decides* that the toolkit for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation should be maintained and further developed as a resource to which additional material should be added as it becomes available, and *urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments and relevant organizations to make use of and further contribute to the toolkit;

(d) *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation, to include in the online toolkit guidance on measures that can be taken to manage and conserve plant species impacted by climate change;

11. *Reiterates* the call in decisions X/17 and VII/10 inviting Parties and other Governments, where they have not done so, to identify national focal points for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation;

12. *Takes note* of the initiative of the Executive Secretary to develop guidance, including for national focal points, in collaboration with the flexible coordination mechanism for the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, to support implementation of the Strategy, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to make this guidance available through the toolkit;

13. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, to enhance their engagement with partner organizations, including members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, for the development and implementation of the national/subnational strategies and targets;

14. *Invites* botanical and other biodiversity conservation institutions, members of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation and members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity to incorporate relevant aspects of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation into their capacity-building activities and training materials, outreach programmes and awareness-raising activities, in order to support Parties as appropriate in enhancing national implementation of the Strategy;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to assist Parties in establishing linkages between monitoring of national implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and review and revision of updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including by

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<sup>20</sup> The reference to SBSTTA recommendation XV/1 may be updated following consideration of this recommendation at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

inviting relevant experts to regional and subregional capacity-building workshops on national biodiversity strategies and action plans where possible;

16. *Welcomes* the proposed Resolution (paragraph 7 of document PC20 Doc. 13) by the Plants Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) related to the cooperation between CITES and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is being submitted for consideration at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of CITES;

17. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the New York Botanical Garden, the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and their partner organizations and supporters worldwide to lead the development of a World Flora Online by 2020 to facilitate the achievement of target 1 of the Global Strategy.

***XVI/11. Revised Draft Capacity-Building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative***

The Subsidiary Body, *having reviewed* the revised draft Capacity-building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12), *decides* that the further revised Strategy, as annexed hereto, will be annexed to its recommendation XV/3 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

*Annex*

**CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY FOR THE GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE**

1. The Global Taxonomy Initiative is a cross-cutting initiative, and its effective implementation will help to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The purpose of the Capacity-building Strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (hereafter, “GTI Capacity-building Strategy”) is to develop the human resources and infrastructure necessary to generate, disseminate and use taxonomic knowledge and information in a manner that assists Parties, other Governments, organizations and stakeholders in effectively implementing the Convention, and where applicable its Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, and national legislation, as well as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This will be achieved through activities of, and collaboration with, a range of taxonomic institutions, initiatives and projects. A list of key partners is available on the CBD website at <http://www.cbd.int/gti/partner.shtml>.

2. The GTI Capacity-building Strategy also seeks to catalyse national action, in an effort to better incorporate taxonomic information and needs in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). The Capacity-building Strategy is composed of a vision, a mission and actions reflecting identified priorities in the view of regional and global levels.

3. The GTI Capacity-building Strategy is a flexible framework for the development of taxonomic capacity and the generation of taxonomic knowledge at global, regional, subregional and national levels.

**A. Vision**

4. By 2020, the taxonomic barriers to the universal availability of scientific knowledge, data and information on biodiversity have been removed, thereby enabling their use at all levels of society in supporting decision-making with a view to achieve the three goals of the Convention.

**B. Mission**

5. By 2020, Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and networks collaborate in implementing the actions of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy at national, subregional, regional and global levels in order to have the necessary taxonomic and human resources, including trained experts in taxonomy, technologies and infrastructure, taxonomic information, databases and data systems for use in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and as a contribution to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

**C. Goals**

**Goal 1:** Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and all other biodiversity stakeholders *appreciate* the value of taxonomic information covering all living organisms with regards to reduction of direct pressures on biodiversity, mainstreaming biodiversity and enhancing ecosystem services for human well-being.

**Goal 2:** Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations *identify* gaps and *prioritize* capacity-building needs.

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**Goal 3:** Relevant organizations, partners and local institutions, including citizen scientists, *generate* and *maintain* the taxonomic information to meet the identified taxonomic needs.

**Goal 4:** Relevant organizations, partners and networks *share* taxonomic information to enable Parties, other Governments and other stakeholders to make informed decisions on biodiversity at national, subregional, regional and global levels.

**Goal 5:** Parties to the Convention, other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders in the Convention process *utilize* taxonomic information to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the programmes of work under the Convention in a timely manner.

**D. Strategic actions to take in the period 2011-2020**

6. Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders shall consider the following actions:

**Action 1:** By the end of 2013, at the latest, review taxonomic needs and capacities at national, subregional and regional levels and set priorities to implement the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

**Rationale:** Updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) will be reviewed at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2014. The priority areas of capacity-building in taxonomy should be clearly indicated in the updated NBSAPs, based on the needs of users at all levels of society, as appropriate, before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This serves to articulate the needs of users for capacity-building in taxonomy that will be addressed in other actions, particularly in actions 3, 4 and 9. Action 1 explicitly addresses Aichi Biodiversity Target 17. Questionnaires for taxonomic needs and capacity assessments to be used for this purpose are accessible at <http://www.cbd.int/gti/needs.shtml>. An information document on standard format for taxonomic needs and capacity assessments for use by Parties (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/4) and other useful information to conduct the assessment are also available. The review will contribute in particular to achieve goal 2 of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy - *identify* gaps and *prioritize* capacity-building needs.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:**

Planned activity 1: Country-based taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities.

Outcome-oriented deliverables in decision IX/22: outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2.

**Output of the action:** Integration of the GTI in reviewed regional, subregional and national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

**Action 2:** By the end of 2013, organize regional and sub-regional workshops aimed at informing Parties and their CBD/GTI national focal points, representatives of ministries of science, education and conservation, and other relevant sectors about the importance of taxonomy and the need for cooperation in this field to implement the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

**Rationale:** This action promotes engagement of the relevant ministries and institutions in further actions between 2015 and 2020 at the national level. It enables the exchange of experiences made on linkages between the Global Taxonomy Initiative and relevant strategies, plans and programmes. It is envisaged that these workshops will facilitate the effective integration of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy into updated NBSAPs through collaboration of the relevant government sectors, *inter alia*, environment, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, science and education. Socio-economic, landscape management and development sectors may be invited to this process

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depending on the identified needs in action 1, as appropriate. This action addresses Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 17 and 19. The workshops will help to achieve goals 1 and 2 of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy - *appreciate* the value of taxonomic information and *identify* gaps and *prioritize* capacity-building needs.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:** All planned activities in the five operational objectives.

**Output of the action:** Engaging academics and the relevant governmental sectors to implement the GTI Capacity-building Strategy.

**Action 3:** By 2014, organize additional technical workshops and academic training to improve taxonomic skills and the quality of taxonomic knowledge and information, as well as the contribution of taxonomy for the implementation of the Convention.

**Rationale:** The GTI Capacity-building Strategy requires well-trained professionals in taxonomy. It is necessary for professional taxonomists complementary to the scientific dissemination for popularizing taxonomic knowledge to make a case for taxonomy and related biodiversity sciences in the context of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This action facilitates the sharing of information on the best practices and experiences between professional **taxonomists** and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Convention. It also facilitates the development of recommended syllabus content to increase public awareness of the taxonomic information necessary to implement the Convention, while also increasing the appeal of taxonomy as a subject to students and staff working on specimen collections, and parataxonomists among others. Taxonomic needs in developing countries to address food security and other emerging issues under the Convention need to be highlighted at these workshops. This action addresses Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1 and 19. The workshops and training will contribute to achieving goals 3, 4 and 5 of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy – *generate, maintain share, and utilize* the taxonomic information.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:** All planned activities in the five operational objectives.

**Output of the action:** Trained taxonomists engaged in supporting the implementation of the Convention, through the training of, and job opportunities for professional taxonomists to facilitate capacity-building in taxonomy and facilitate their contribution to communication, education and public awareness activities in line with the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Awareness among taxonomic experts and stakeholders regarding taxonomic needs and requirements related to access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

**Action 4:** By 2015, produce and continue to share taxonomic tools (e.g., field guides, online tools such as virtual herbaria, genetic and DNA sequence-based identification tools such as barcoding) and risk-analysis tools in the context of invasive alien species and biosafety, taking into account the identified needs of users; and facilitate the use of those tools to identify and analyse: (i) threatened species; (ii) invasive alien species; (iii) species and traits that are useful to agriculture and aquaculture; (iv) species subject to illegal trafficking; and (v) socio-economically important species, including microbial diversity.

**Rationale:** The existing and newly produced identification tools will assist Parties in the inventorying of biodiversity, early detection of invasive alien species, and the implementation of other programmes of the Convention which require taxonomic identification. It is important to develop international technical standards and protocols for the characterization, inventory and monitoring of biodiversity for domesticated genetic resources and production environments, as appropriate. This action is especially important at the infra-specific level of taxa for some

organisms where there are different sub-species, varieties, strains and biotypes that may, for example, have different levels of invasiveness, impacts in different ecosystems, or different responses or reactions to biocontrol agents. Taxonomic tools would preferably be made open-access in accordance with international standards and licence agreements for the relevant technologies. This action addresses Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16. This action contributes to achieving goals 3 and 4 of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy – *generate, maintain and share* taxonomic information.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:** Planned activities 10-16 covering all thematic programmes, access and benefit-sharing, Article 8(j), invasive alien species and protected areas contained in decision VIII/3.

**Output of the action:** Species identification capacity necessary to support the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention, including, *inter alia*, (i) prioritization and management of protected areas; (ii) agriculture and aquaculture relevant to food security; (iii) invasive alien species control and management; (iv) species inventories and monitoring.

**Action 5:** By 2015, review and enhance human capacity and infrastructure to identify and to assist monitoring of biodiversity, particularly on invasive alien species, understudied taxa, threatened and socio-economically important species among others. The review might be undertaken with regional networks and coordinated with national and international activities.

**Rationale:** In 2015, the Conference of the Parties will conduct a mid-term review of the progress on implementation of the Strategic Plan. It should include a review of the capacities to identify and monitor biodiversity which may be undertaken at the national level and/or in collaboration with regional networks. This might entail the compilation of lists of specialists, institutions and funding sources, and promoting incentives for training young taxonomists to ensure that taxonomic knowledge, skills and taxonomic collections are successfully maintained. This action addresses Aichi Biodiversity Targets 17, 19 and 20. It contributes to achieve goals 3 and 4 of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy – *generate, maintain and share* taxonomic information.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:**

Planned activity 5: Global and regional capacity-building to support access to and generation of taxonomic information, strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy.

Planned activity 15: Invasive alien species.

**Output of the action:** Information for the Conference of the Parties as a contribution to the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Human capacity for species identification enhanced.

**Action 6:** To the extent possible, support existing efforts to establish capacity for national and thematic biodiversity information facilities, build and maintain the information systems and infrastructure needed to collate, curate and track the use of biological specimens, in particular type specimens, and provide free and open access to the relevant biodiversity information for the public by 2016.

**Rationale:** To follow-up on capacity and infrastructure requirements reviewed in action 5 of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy, Parties, other Governments and the financial sector, including donors, need to enhance the infrastructure for taxonomic capacity-building, including developing mechanisms for the digitization of existing reference and other collections and information. This action addresses Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 17, 19 and 20. This action further contributes to

achieving goals 3 and 4 of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy - *generate, maintain and share* the taxonomic information.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:** Planned activity 7: Develop a coordinated global taxonomic information system in accordance with international standards and licence agreements for the relevant technologies.

**Output of the action:** Information infrastructure to meet the needs of taxonomy.

**Action 7:** By 2017, establish the human resources and infrastructure sufficient to maintain the existing collections and build further collections of biological specimens and living genetic resources. This action may strengthen and facilitate: (i) *ex-situ* conservation of microorganisms; (ii) engagement of academics; (iii) internships, exchanges and cooperation of experts; (iv) job opportunities for becoming specialized and continuing to work in taxonomy; (v) allocation of public-funds for establishment and maintenance of collections infrastructure; (vi) business-case for investment in human resources and infrastructure; (vii) access to information; and (viii) coordinated global systems of biological collections.

**Rationale:** Maintaining reference collections, reference tools, and voucher specimens is of paramount importance for the identification and monitoring of biodiversity and the effective implementation of the Convention. This action seeks to ensure the capacity of institutions with collections of biological specimens and living genetic resources to: (i) offer identification services; (ii) conduct training; and (iii) engage in international collaboration in taxonomic research. This action addresses the taxonomic impediment stated in the Darwin Declaration<sup>21</sup> and Aichi Biodiversity Targets 17, 19 and 20. This action further contributes to achieving goals 3 and 4 of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy – *generate, maintain and share* taxonomic information.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:** Planned activity 7: Develop a coordinated global taxonomy information system in accordance with international standards and licence agreements for the relevant technologies.

**Output of the action:** Enhanced human resources, institutional infrastructure and biological collections, including *ex situ* microbial preservation facilities that serve as research tools.

**Action 8:** By 2019, improve the quality and increase the quantity of records on biodiversity in historic, current and future collections and make them available through taxonomic and genetic databases to enhance resolution and increase confidence of biodiversity prediction models under different scenarios.

**Rationale:** In 2020, the Conference of the Parties will review the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and assess progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, based, *inter alia*, on the sixth national reports (decision X/9). One of the ultimate goals of the use of taxonomic information is to enhance resolution and increase confidence of models of the status of biodiversity with various scenarios of environmental pressures, such as climate change and underlying drivers of change. To fulfil this objective, the use of taxonomic and associated information on ecosystems, including genetic data, must be reflected in the sixth national report by Parties. This action may also reveal missing information for the period beyond 2020. This action addresses Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 19. This action contributes to achieving goals 3, 4 and 5 of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy - *generate maintain, share and utilize* taxonomic information.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:**

Planned activity 7: Develop a coordinated global taxonomy information system.

**Output of the action:** Increased capacity of Parties to make science-based decisions utilizing information on the status of biodiversity and potential loss/restoration of species, habitat or ecosystems under the given policy-relevant scenarios.

**Action 9:** Facilitation of all-taxa inventories in targeted national, regional and subregional priority areas such as biodiversity hot spots, key biodiversity areas, protected areas, community-conserved areas, sustainable biodiversity management zones, and socio-ecological production landscapes considered under the *Satoyama* Initiative and other programmes in which biodiversity inventories are a priority for decision-making.

**Rationale:** This is a catalytic action of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy, which intends to accelerate the generation of taxonomic information needed by Parties to make scientifically informed decisions on conservation and management of biodiversity. In addition, it supports the engagement of local stakeholders in biodiversity inventories. Taxonomic knowledge will be widely shared. This action enhances the involvement of taxonomists and other citizens to support conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and increase taxonomic capacity beyond 2020. Projects may also include inventory, characterization and monitoring of the genetics of domesticated species in their production environments, such as on farm, in forests, and in aquaculture facilities, as well as wildlife, as appropriate, by 2019. Microbial diversity should be included where possible. Species inventories could be initiated as a priority in areas where basic species occurrence information is already available and accessible, with a view to supporting the development of national action plans and promoting conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit-sharing at the national level.

This action addresses Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 19 and contributes to achieving all five goals of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy - to *appreciate, identify* and *prioritize, generate, maintain* and *utilize* the taxonomic knowledge and information.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:**

Planned activity 4: Public awareness and education.

Planned activity 6: Strengthening of existing networks for regional cooperation in taxonomy.

Planned activity 14: Access and benefit-sharing.

All of the planned activities under operational objective 4.

**Output of the action:** Increased capacity to generate and share taxonomic information. Engagement of stakeholders in inventories. Enhancement of citizen science. Contribution to communication education and public awareness for biodiversity.

**Action 10:** Between 2018 and 2020, using, *inter alia*, the Aichi Biodiversity Target indicators relevant to taxonomy, evaluate the progress in the GTI Capacity-building Strategy at the national, subregional, regional and global levels with a view to sustaining them beyond 2020.

**Rationale:** This action seeks to ensure long-term capacity-building activities at all levels. At its meeting in 2020, the Conference of the Parties will conduct a review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. At that time, capacity-building

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achievements in taxonomy should be assessed in parallel with progress on the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Using the proposed indicators for taxonomy,<sup>22</sup> progress on Target 19 and other relevant targets can be assessed by countries partaking in national and/or regional taxonomy initiatives, as well as the progress reported by Parties and other Governments. Some possible additional indicators are: (i) process indicators: number of trained people, number of people utilizing their taxonomic skills after the training, and number of workshops organized; (ii) output indicators: number of training materials produced, number of taxonomic tools, and number of outcome-oriented deliverables of the programme of work achieved; and (iii) results/progress indicators: increase in the number of taxonomic studies published (globally, per region), the number of institutions with strengthened infrastructure and the number of job opportunities for taxonomists increased. This action addresses all Aichi Biodiversity Targets, particularly 1 and 19. The review of the GTI Capacity-Building Strategy will provide substantive information to be considered in the formulation of strategies beyond 2020.

**Relevant activities in the programme of work on the GTI:** Planned activity 5 but also relevant to all other planned activities of the programme of work.

**Output of the action:** Review of implementation of the GTI Capacity-building Strategy. Information for Parties to develop the Strategy beyond 2020.

#### *E. Implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation*

7. The GTI Capacity-Building Strategy will be implemented in support of the programme of work for the Global Taxonomy Initiative and within the broader framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Accordingly, the provisions on implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation contained in section V and the support mechanisms in section VI of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2) apply to the implementation of the programme of work for the GTI and the GTI Capacity-Building Strategy.

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<sup>22</sup> An indicative list of indicators was agreed through recommendation XV/1.

**XVI/12. *New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity***

*The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,*

*Having examined* the submissions made in response to the invitation to propose new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

*Having discussed* the issue of “geoengineering: impacts on biodiversity and gaps in existing regulatory mechanisms” under the agenda item on biodiversity and climate change and made separate recommendations on this issue,

*Recalling* paragraph 16 of decision X/37, in which the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments to apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the Preamble to the Convention, and the Cartagena Protocol, to the introduction and use of living modified organisms for the production of biofuels as well as to the field release of synthetic life, cell, or genome into the environment, acknowledging the entitlement of Parties, in accordance with domestic legislation, to suspend the release of synthetic life, cell, or genome into the environment,

1. *Takes note* of the technical information on the impact of ground-level ozone on biodiversity contained in the annex to the note by the Executive Secretary on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/13);

2. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties adopts a decision along the following lines:

*“The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the proposals for new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on *New and emerging issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity* prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/13);

2. *Noting* the effects of tropospheric ozone as a greenhouse gas and the potential contribution of its reduction in mitigating climate change, *noting also* its impacts on human health and on biodiversity, noting further relevant work on this issue undertaken under the auspices of regional processes, *decides* to include the consideration of the impacts of tropospheric ozone in the programme of work on the interlinkages of biodiversity and climate change and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report on progress to a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice where biodiversity and climate change is on the agenda;

**Option 1**

[3. *Decides* not to add any of the proposed new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;]

**Option 2**

[3. *Noting*, on the basis of precautionary approach, and aware of the need to consider the potential positive and negative impacts of products and organisms derived from synthetic

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biology on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and *requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Compile and synthesize relevant available information, based on all knowledge systems, and submissions from Parties, other Governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders, to consider if there are:

- (i) Possible impacts of synthetic biology [techniques,] organisms and products on biodiversity including social, economic and cultural considerations relevant to the objectives of the Convention;
- (ii) Possible gaps and overlaps with the applicable provisions of the Convention and its Protocols and other relevant agreements;

(b) Make the information from the above studies available for consideration at a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

*3 bis. Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders to submit relevant information on the possible impacts of synthetic biology techniques, organisms and products on biodiversity and associated social, economic and cultural considerations;]

### **Option 3**

[3. *Noting* that the process established for identifying new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, contained in decision IX/29, requires refinement, and based on the information provided in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/13, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was not able to make a judgment to recommend adding at its sixteenth meeting any of the proposed new and emerging issues proposed relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to the agenda of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as a new and emerging issue;

*3 bis. Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders to submit additional relevant information, including peer-reviewed scientific information and information from different knowledge systems, on the possible impacts of synthetic biology techniques, organisms and products on biodiversity and associated social, economic and cultural considerations in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 of the procedure for identifying new and emerging issues (decision IX/29) and *requests* the Executive Secretary, based on this and other relevant compiled information, to prepare and make available for peer review a synthesis report, including applicable provisions of the Convention and its Protocols, for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;]

[4. *Urges* Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with the precautionary approach, which is key when dealing with new and emerging scientific and technological issues, to ensure that synthetic genetic parts and living modified organisms produced by synthetic biology are not released into the environment or approved for commercial use until there is an adequate scientific basis on which to justify such activities and due consideration is given to the associated risks for biological diversity, also including socio-economic risks and risks to the environment, human health, food security, livelihoods, culture and traditional knowledge, practices and innovations;]

5. In line with decision IX/29, *requests* the Executive Secretary to include, with the compilation of original submissions and the information and views on each proposed new and emerging issue relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, a review of information applying the criteria contained in paragraph 12 of decision IX/29, where this has not been otherwise provided, with a view to enabling the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the proposals.

**XVI/13. Biofuels and biodiversity**

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties*

*Recalling* decisions IX/2 and X/37, in which the Conference of the Parties decided, *inter alia*, to consider ways and means to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity,

*Acknowledging* concerns that deployment of biofuels technologies may result in increased demand for biomass and aggravate drivers of biodiversity loss, such as land-use change, introduction of invasive alien species, bearing in mind paragraph 6 of decision X/38 of the Conference of the Parties, and resource over-consumption,

*Also acknowledging* the potential for biofuels technologies to make a positive contribution to mitigating climate change, another of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and generating additional income, especially in rural areas,

*Recalling* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

*Further recognizing* that the consideration of the issues covered by decision X/37, paragraph 2, are important to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of many Parties, relevant organizations and initiatives in developing and applying tools and approaches to promote the positive and minimize or avoid the negative impacts of biofuels on biodiversity and impacts on biodiversity that affect positively or negatively related socio-economic conditions, including food and energy security, as well as the consideration of land tenure and resource rights, including water, and *encourages* continuing efforts in these regards;

2. *Invites* Parties:

(a) To consider relevant biofuels matters, when and if appropriate, when updating and implementing their national and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other relevant policies;

(b) To consider the use of various relevant voluntary tools regarding the impact of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity, such as in strategic environment and socio-economic assessment and integrated land-use planning in accordance with national circumstances; and

(c) To recall the invitation to Parties, acknowledging different national conditions, other governments and relevant organizations in decision X/37, paragraph 7;

3. *Welcomes* the current work being undertaken regarding decision X/37, paragraph 7 and *encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue this work;

4. *Invites* Parties, and other Governments, to make information on progress in responding to paragraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c), above, widely available, and *invites* Parties to also report on this in their fifth national reports where feasible;

5. *Recognizing* that some incentive measures can be significant drivers of biofuels expansion, in certain circumstances, *invites* Parties and other Governments to evaluate these measures

using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in the context of the Convention's cross-cutting issue on incentive measures, taking into account national socio-economic conditions;

6. Also *recognizing* the rapidly developing technology associated with biofuels, *urges* Parties and other Governments to monitor these developments, and *recalls* decision IX/2, paragraph 3 (c) (i), which urged Parties and invited other Governments, *inter alia*, to apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the preamble of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

7. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Executive Secretary, on his work in response to decision X/37, submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/14), and *requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to compile information, *inter alia*, on gaps in available standards and methodologies identified in the work undertaken in paragraph 11 of decision X/37;

8. *Takes note:*

(a) Of gaps in our scientific knowledge of biofuels and in relevant tools and approaches, and remaining uncertainties, in particular the inherent difficulty of measuring and addressing indirect impacts of biofuels on biodiversity; and

(b) That many technical and scientific issues with biofuels are difficult to assess and that they are relevant to many programmes of work of the Convention, in particular the Ecosystem Approach, and that these may be addressed in a broader context;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, as part of his ongoing work in regard to decision X/37, in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and considering ongoing work, to compile information on relevant definitions of relevant key terms to enable Parties to implement decisions IX/2 and X/37, and to report on progress to a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Decides* to review progress on the implementation of decisions IX/2 and X/37 at its twelfth meeting.

**XVI/14. Incentive measures: progress in implementing decision X/44**

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopts a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the progress reported by Parties and other Governments in implementing decision X/44 on incentive measures, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in particular Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2, 3 and 4, as well as to the Strategy for Resource Mobilization;

2. *Notes* existing efforts by a number of Parties to prepare national studies on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, and *encourages* other Parties and Governments to also consider, as appropriate, the preparation of such studies, making use of the findings of the international study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) as well as of similar work at the national or regional levels, involving all relevant stakeholders, and to identify mechanisms and measures to integrate the values of biodiversity into relevant national and local policies, programmes and planning processes, as well as reporting systems, in a manner adapted to national circumstances;

3. *Cognizant* of the need to feed the results of these studies into national policy development and implementation in a systematic and coherent manner, *invites* Parties and other Governments that plan to undertake national studies on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, to ensure that these studies and the revised national biodiversity strategy and action plans are mutually supportive;

4. *Noting* the considerable analytical work that has already been undertaken on harmful incentives by international organizations and initiatives such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the World Trade Organization (WTO);

(a) *Invites* Parties and other Governments to develop and apply tools to identify incentives that are harmful for biodiversity, as well as methods to monitor progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 3, using the relevant indicator of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization (decision X/3, paragraph 7, indicator 13);

(b) *Emphasizes* that conducting studies for the identification of incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity need not delay immediate policy action in cases where candidates for elimination, phase out or reform are already known, taking into account national socio-economic conditions;

(c) *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments to take appropriate action in these cases, in form of elimination or initiation of phase out or reform, taking into account national socio-economic conditions, including by seizing opportunities arising within the review cycles of existing sectoral policies, both at national and regional levels;

(d) *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary information on obstacles encountered in implementing identified options for eliminating, phasing out or reforming incentives that are harmful for biodiversity;

5. *Recognizes* that eliminating, phasing out, or reforming incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity will make positive incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity more effective and/or less costly;

6. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to take into consideration in their policy planning, the linkages between the elimination, phase out, or reform of harmful incentives, including subsidies, and the promotion of positive incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, including in revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, taking into account national socio-economic conditions;

7. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other Governments to consider, in accordance with the objectives of revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, including specific criteria on biodiversity into national procurement plans, national strategies for sustainable consumption and production, and similar planning frameworks, as a contribution to implementing Aichi Biodiversity Target 4, and to strengthening the science base and methodologies to enable this to be done more effectively;

8. *Encourages* Parties to engage the private sector on ways and means to contribute to the national implementation of the Convention, such as through the establishment of business and biodiversity platforms/networks, the development of tools to promote the consideration of biodiversity in business activities, including guidance to assist business in reporting their environmental impacts, in particular impacts on biodiversity, and to support related international initiatives;

9. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and initiatives, and bilateral and multilateral funding organizations, to develop proposals for extending longer-term technical support and capacity-building on valuation methodologies and the integration of the values of biodiversity into relevant national and local policies, programmes and planning processes, including national biodiversity strategy and action plans, as well as reporting systems, including national accounting, as appropriate;

10. *Notes* the support of international organizations and initiatives, including, among others, the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD GM), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank and its Global Partnership for Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), to the efforts at the global, regional and national levels in identifying and eliminating, phasing out or reforming incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, in promoting positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, and in assessing and mainstreaming the values of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, and *invites* these and other relevant organizations and initiatives to continue and further intensify this work, including continued support for capacity building at the national level;

11. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the United Nations Statistics Commission to include experimental ecosystem accounts into its revised System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA), thereby supporting the incorporation of biodiversity, as appropriate, in national accounting, as foreseen by Aichi Biodiversity Target 2;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, with a view to supporting progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular targets 2, 3 and 4, and in mobilizing resources for biodiversity, to:

(a) Compile the submissions received pursuant to paragraph 4 (d) above, make them available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, and prepare a synthesis report on obstacles encountered in implementing identified options for eliminating, phasing out or reforming

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incentives that are harmful for biodiversity, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Continue and further strengthen its cooperation with relevant organizations and initiatives, with a view to catalysing, supporting, and facilitating further work in identifying and eliminating, phasing out or reforming harmful incentives, in promoting positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, and in assessing and mainstreaming the values of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services;

(c) Continue holding regional capacity-building workshops in cooperation with relevant organizations and initiatives, and, as appropriate, with the participation of relevant experts from finance and planning ministries, to support countries in making use of the findings of the TEEB studies as well as similar work at national or regional levels, and in integrating the values of biodiversity into relevant national and local policies, programmes and planning processes, in a manner adapted to national circumstances, and to support the sharing of pertinent experiences, good practices, and lessons learned.

**XVI/15. Reports on collaborative work on biodiversity and agriculture, forests, and biodiversity and health**

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Notes* the progress report of the Executive Secretary on collaborative work on biodiversity and agriculture, forests and biodiversity and health (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/16);

2. *Stresses* the importance of further strengthening the collaboration between the Convention and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in achieving relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and *takes note* of the revised joint work plan between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/33, annex);

3. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to examine how the indicative list of indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as contained in recommendation XV/1 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice can be taken into account when carrying out future Global Forest Resources Assessments, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with FAO to help ensure that the Global Forest Resources Assessment continues to provide useful data and analysis for the purpose of assessing progress in implementation of the Convention;

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to raise awareness on the inter-relations between biodiversity and health issues and to collaborate with national health sectors in order to integrate biodiversity issues into national health strategies and programmes, to achieve mutual benefits and contribute towards relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;

5. *Notes* that the indicative list of indicators (recommendation XV/1, annex I, of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice) contains a number of indicators that may be relevant to the links between biodiversity and health including trends in benefits that humans derive from selected ecosystem services; trends in health and well-being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services; and trends in nutritional contribution of biodiversity: food composition, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations and based on views of Parties, to further develop these indicators, in line with recommendation XV/1 and *encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholders, to make use of them;

6. *Welcomes with appreciation* the strengthening collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the World Health Organization, as well as other relevant organizations and initiatives, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, to establish a joint work programme with the World Health Organization, and, as appropriate, with other relevant organizations and initiatives, to support the contribution that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 can make to achieving human health objectives; and

[7. *Noting* that insufficient funds were available for the implementation of requested targeted joint activities between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Forum on Forests, in particular for capacity-building, *reiterates* its invitation to

countries in a position to do so to provide funding for a joint staff position and activity funds, through the voluntary trust fund of the Convention.]

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